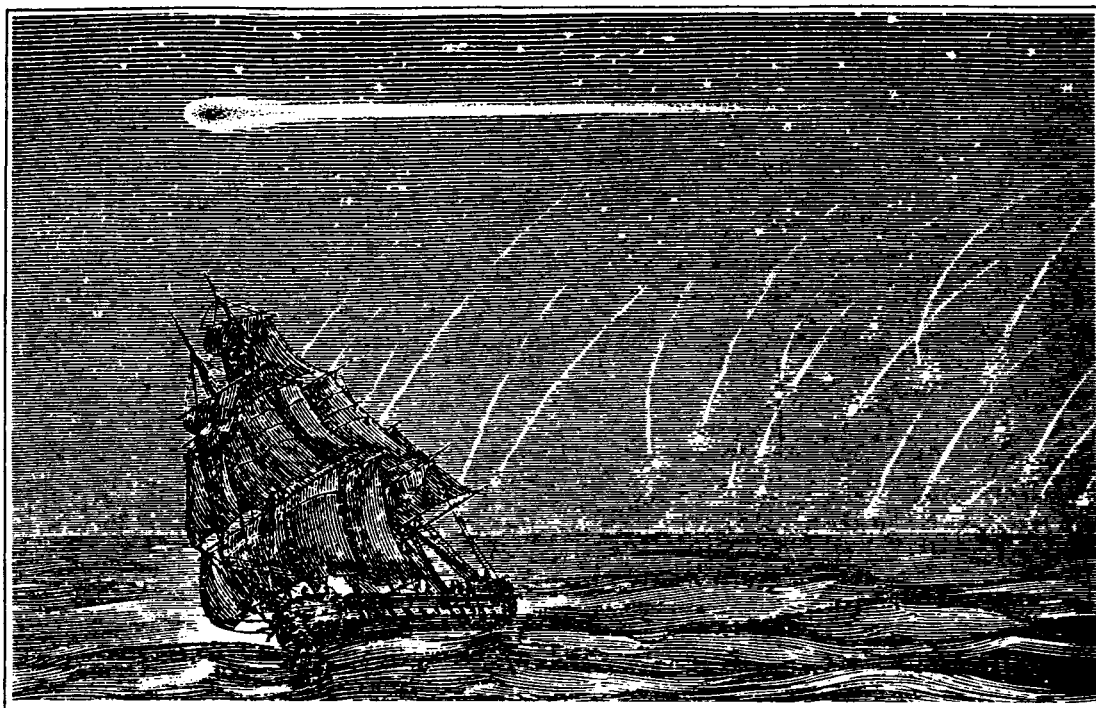
a miscellany of Fortean curiosites

THE NEWS

FIREBALLS &c .. 10
GHOST LIGHTS .. 14



MYSTERY COASTAL FLARES .. 9

also --- some antiquities 3 ---

vanishings of animals, fish, and people 5 ---

Stuart Greenwood's pyramid slope hypothesis 12 ---

exotic animals on the loose 15 ---

mystery animals 19

35p:$1·00

ISSN:0306-0764

THE NEWS

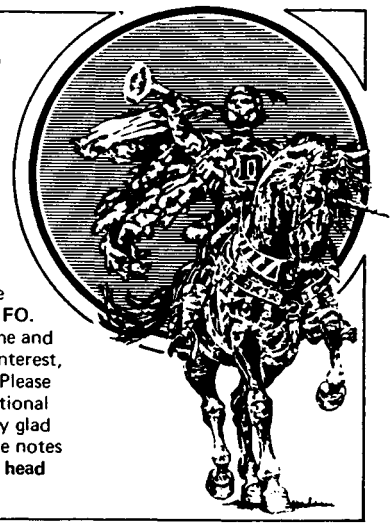
bi-monthly notes on Fortean phenomena

april
whole no: 9
volume:2. 1975

THE NEWS is a non-profitmaking bi-monthly miscellany of Fortean news, notes and references; and is affiliated to the International Fortean Organisation (INFO) in continuing the work of **Charles Fort** (1874 – 1932). THE NEWS is edited by **Robert JM Rickard : Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Berkshire, England.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS : 1 year (6 issues) : **UK : £2.10. USA : $6.00.** All other countries use dollar equivalent. Single issues : 35p / $1.00. Back issues (if available) : 40p / $1.15. Current INDEX free to subscribers, otherwise 20p/ 60¢ each. Cheques, POs, IMOs etc. make payable to **RJM Rickard**, not THE NEWS. All **overseas subscribers** should add 10% to the total if paying by cheque, to cover the banking exchange commission and charges.

CONTRIBUTIONS & RIGHTS : All articles in **THE NEWS** are copyright of the authors – and the views expressed are not necessarily those of **THE NEWS**, or **INFO.** Contributions of articles, notes and artwork on related subjects are always welcome and duly credited. – If you encounter any reference or data you think will be of interest, please make a note of the **source** and **date** (adding your **name**, for the crediting). Please don't assume our omniscience – there are very few duplications. Remember national daily newspapers have slightly different regional editions –– and we are especially glad to see notes from professional sources, local papers, and rare or OP books. All the notes herein may be quoted freely, though we hope for a credit in return. **All category head art in this issue by Hunt Emerson.**



RONALD J WILLIS.

Ron Willis, co-founder and Director of INFO, died on 12th March 75, after a long illness. He is survived by a wife and daughter, INFO, and brother Paul, editor of the INFO Journal.

– – –

'A certain man was believed to have died, and was being prepared for burial, when he revived. He sat up, but he was so shocked at the scene surrounding him that he fainted. He was put in a coffin, and the funeral party set off for the cemetary. Just as they arrived at the grave, he regained consciousness, lifted the coffin lid and cried for help. "It is not possible that he has revived," said the mourners, "because he has been certified dead by competant experts." "But I am alive!" shouted the man. He appealed to a well-known and impartial scientist and jurisprudent who was present. "Just a moment," said the expert. He then turned to the mourners, counting them. "Now, we have heard what the alleged deceased has had to say. You fifty witnesses tell me what you regard as the truth." "He is dead," said the witnesses. "Bury him!" said the expert. And so he was buried.'

A teaching sermon of the Chishti Order of Sufis. 'The way of the Sufi' by Idries Shah.

– – –

I had had only sporadic correspondence with Ron, and since I have never met him, there is something to look forward to. Goodbye Ron - rest assured we shall be continuing your work too.

CHANGE OF EDITORIAL ADDRESS.

You may have noticed a new address on the masthead above. We anticipate putting out at least one more issue from the present Birmingham address, and so the new one should become effective from about July onwards. Adequate forwarding will be arranged to cover the possible eventualities.

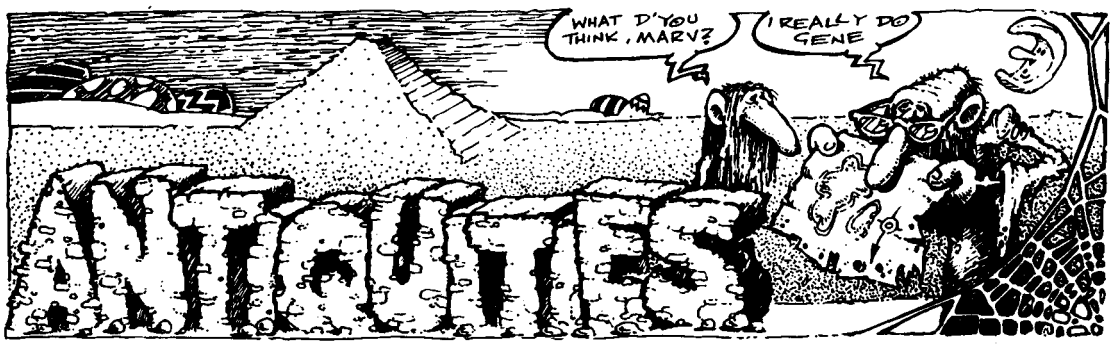
PRICE STATUS.

Paper costs have stabilized to a degree, but will go up at the end of the year. Postage is now nearly double due to the recent increase, and labour costs continue to bugger us about at the printers &c. We may have to increase THE NEWS cost at year-end -- we say, may, because our reluctance to do so is based on the thought that that way lies pricing ourselves out of existance. The only practical solution, therefore, rests in some part with you, dear Readers, by taking every opportunity you can to bring in new readers. Also if our USA-readers know of any shops there as potential NEWS-stockists (we can supply trade terms) then please write and let us know. It all helps to garuantee our existance.

WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE STAFFS/ LEICESTERSHIRE BORDER...

Paul Devereaux and Andy York are in the middle of a gigantic project of collating recent and historical Fortean phenomena and their associated traditions for a specific geographic region -

in this case the fault area near the Charnwood Forest, Leics. We have been receiving progress reports on this fascinating venture and can unreservedly say that it will ultimately prove to be a very valuable key reference source. We are delighted to report that Paul and Andy will be presenting the more Fortean aspects in THE NEWS, later this year. One curious aspect is that during their investigations, tremors began in the area which focussed their attention on the fault-line (previously of low relevance). We didn't even know of these tremors till Paul told us, because of minimal press coverage. This and the lack of 'expert' attention and comment has so worried the locals that not only have they formed a committee to investigate ((Cr: R Cotton)), but have persuaded Jack Ashley MP to ask questions in the Commons. Paul added "The 'Sentinel' of Jan 30th reported that Eric Varley, Minister for Energy, had "called for a full report", and there, need I say it, the story comes to a sudden shuddering and complete STOP." For our part, we contacted the professors of the Geology Depts. of the two Universities in the area (sorry, I mean, the Birmingham area), only to find that they were completely ignorant of any tremors in the Stoke, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Leicester regions ((yawn!)). In an attempt at completeness Paul and Andy ask that if any NEWSreaders have any info or cuttings on anything odd in that region, new or old, then please send it to Paul Devereaux at: 64 Cedar Court, Pages Hill, London N10.



HEAVY READING.

An ancient Greek lead scroll has been found on an island at the mouth of the Dnieper river. Now restored and in the Hermitage Museum, Leningrad, it is only the sixth that has ever been found. It is said to be the oldest (2,500yrs), longest and best preserved. ((Bragging, again!)) Novosti Bulletin, 15718, 6 Jan 75.

SHIPWRECKED DOWN A MINE.

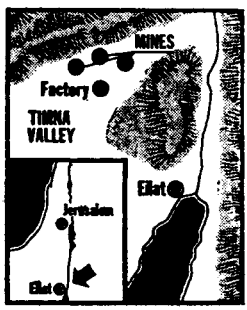
Frank Adey sent us a letter containing the following curiosity, which, "falls under the general heading of 'incongruous objects found embedded in rock'. It's the least convincing anecdote of its kind I've ever come across, but it led me to an interesting query. The item comes from The Natural History of Stafford-shire, by Robert Plot, first published in 1686, (Ch II, para 71): '...But the most prodigious story that we have of this kind, is that of Baptista Fulgosus, Ludovicus Moscardus, and Theodorus Moretus, who tell us that, at the village of Bern in Switzerland, An.1460, in a mine 50 fathoms deep, there was dug up a whole ship, with its anchors and broken masts, in which were the carcases of 40 mariners, together with their merchandise: which Fulgosus more particularly tells us, as a thing done in his own time, and seen by many grave and sober men, from whom he received a personal account of it.' Which leads me to ask - why is it that in all of these kinds of stories, the objects found are contemporary with the finders? Compare the 15th century ship with the nuts and bolts which are allegedly found today (and ascribed to extraterrestrial litterbugs visiting Earth in prehistoric times)." Good question - but I for one would like to know a lot more about this 15th century find. It may have been a ship, or that may have been the nearest applicable concept that occurred to the finders. I mean... what else could have 40 people aboard. Who said UFOs?..Oh hallo! Erich...and goodbye Erich...the answer is NO! Erich...this one is ours. So, any of you diligent NEWSreaders who can scoop the poop on this mystery, please let us know before HE gets hold of it.

ANOTHER REWRITE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS.

Just how much longer can orthodoxy in archeology resist the growing pressures on it to change? Good Lord, have they learned nothing from their own views that dinosaurs are extinct because of their refusal to keep up with the times? The evidences are heaping up, that the past was more complex and mysterious than is cozily dreamt of in their philosophy. Professorial opinions these days are as stiff as fossils, pickled in the strata of their establishments. See Sunday Times Magazine, 6 April 75, for a paradox that was too big to ignore - that the conventional history of

early Man in Australia has been completely upset by the discovery of two skeletons; one places Homo sapiens (modern man) as far back as 30000 years ago, and the other brings Homo erectus (Java man, known locally as 'The coffee drinker') up to as recent as only 9,000 years ago. (Credit: Steve Moore.)

And now another blow to the academic dream-world -- with word that a British-backed expedition to Israel made discoveries near the port of Eilat, that mean "the entire pre-history of metal technology will have to be re-written." Drs Ronald Tylecote (Newcastle U) and Beno Rothenburg (London U's Institute of Archeology, & Tel Aviv U) have been exploring copper mines of great size and sophistication, but which date from 1400 BC, making them at least 1000yrs older than any previously known examples of systematic underground mining. It seems they were operated by Egyptians using stone hammers and bronze chisels and "displayed remarkable engineering techniques."

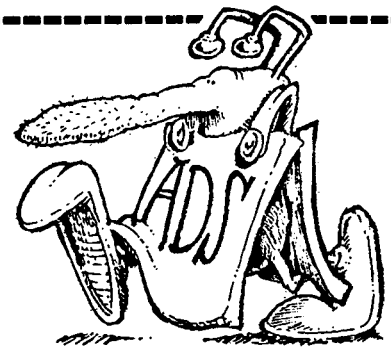


"They comprise a network of 200 shafts and galleries penetrating the white sandstone for 100s of yds in all directions and on several levels. Each shaft has its own air-channel, roughly the diameter of a thumb, which allowed the miners to breathe freely several hundred feet beneath the surface, and to work by oil lamps. The different levels are connected by vertical shafts up to 50ft deep, with foot and hand holds cut into them. Where shafts have been sunk to deeper levels, lateral shafts have been joined up 'blind' (presumably for ventilation) with very few errors."

It seems the expedition also found remains of the earliest complete smelting plant ever discovered. The site was first in use around 4000 BC when the copper-smelter was merely a hole in the ground heated by bellows. "By 1400 BC the miners had developed clay-lined smelters to produce small ingots. And analysis of the slag...has shown that by 1200 BC the smelting method was every bit as efficient as present-day techniques. It also seems to have been at Timna that the use of iron oxide to help seperate out the copper from the ore was first tried." They also found an iron ore mine in the valley and suspect that this is how the Bronze Age gave way to the Iron Age. Sunday Times, 8 Dec 74. (Credit: Steve Moore.)

UNDER THEIR NOSES ALL THE TIME.

The Director of Greece's National Archeological Museum, Nicholas Yacouris startled the world by announcing that "wonderous..archeological pieces of art..almost priceless," have been found - 15th century BC stone seals; jewellery; weapons; much very valuable Mycenean stuff like a compass and ivory model of a war galleon, and a curious piece of armour plating for a warrior's heel (as per Achilles could have done with). And where should they find this fabulous hoard? - that's right, in their basement, lying in "layers" of forgotten crates, unopened since the digs in the 19th C. Many of the bits and pieces they found were the missing parts of items already on open exhibition -- eg, Yacouris mentions a 5th C BC engraved stone head of a sea-monster that was found to fit a gap below the goddess Amphitrite on the Parthenon's upper western pediment. We can't say we are really all that surprised at this revelation of a new archeology -- it stands to reason that those who live by robbing tombs, should feel now and then a tugging towards cannibalism. Houston (Texas) Chronicle, 27 June 74. Credit: Mark Hall.



SPECTRUM : A new bi-monthly occult magazine featuring UFOs, Magic, witchcraft, ESP & psychic matters, book reviews, readers letters, etc. Illustrated. Send 35p for latest issue, or only £2.00 for next 6 issues to: Bywood Publications, 62 High Street, Croydon CR9 2UT, Surrey.

THE NEWS is available from the following specialist bookshops, who also keep a wide range of titles on associated subjects:

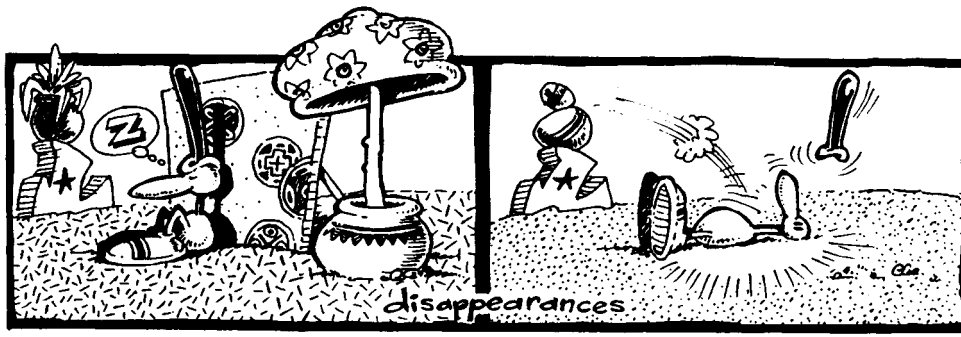
TEMPS FUTURS:
3 Rue Perronet, 75007 Paris, France.

COMPENDIUM BOOKS:
240 Camden High St, London NW1.

DARK THEY WERE AND GOLDEN EYED:
10 Berwick St, London W1V 3RG.

It is with some sadness we note the closing of JAPETUS in Birmingham, which leaves us in even more of a cultural wilderness than before. Similarly, NEW DIMENSIONS in Arlington, USA, has closed - but its service will be continued to a limited degree by INFO: Box 367, Arlington, Va 22210, USA. Incidentally, you'd be doing us, and yourselves in the long run, a favour if you could convince your local, or any, bookshop to take THE NEWS. Trade terms are available.

Cont on page 14.



DOG — Do you remember Fort's passage: "Early in the morning of July 26th (1908) a big black dog sauntered past them (detectives)). 'Good Morning!' said the dog. He disappeared in a thin, greenish vapor." (Wild Talents, Ch 5.) That incident seems to be pretty unique in the annals of the odd - which was why Fort rejected using it further. We have a tale of a dog that vanished - but one that could not, or was not so polite as to speak. It is a letter to the Eastern Daily Press, 7 Dec 73 :

"I was staying in Norfolk a few days ago when my great friend and companion, a golden retriever, disappeared in what I consider to be a mystifying way. I took the dog out for a walk about midnight on a quiet lane in Cringleford. After a while, a friend and I turned back towards his home, I called the dog, which was nosing around ina field, and as usual he came tearing after us. Then, within half a minute, while we were chatting, the dog simply vanished. He may have chased a rabbit, got onto the scent of a bitch in heat, or even lost his way back to my friend's house. I don't know. Perhaps he was hit by a passing car...perhaps he was stolen and sold to vivisectionists. There are hundreds of possible explanations but I feel disinclined to believe any one of them. Surely a dog cannot vanish without a trace? When we read of Mr Uri Geller and his seemingly paranormal powers, or hear of a wake of misfortune following the arrival of a newcomet ((written at the time of the great expectations from Kohoutek)), it makes me wonder if an enormous hand might have grabbed him and whisked him away into outer space.

David GL Lacon.
4 Jopling Way, Hauxton, Cambs."

That suggestion seems no more outrageous than any other to us - especially when there seems to be no evidence towards any normal whisking away. Credit: RA Hill.

TROUT — We have recorded stories of the disappearance and appearance of fish before, but here is one of a round trip - if that is what it is. Mr CW Foster rears trout in a brick pit at the Marina, Barrow Haven, near Barton-on-Humber, Lincs. There were 8000 fish, all between 10 and 12 inches long, averaging 1lb each — total value £4000. When he came to feed them (which he did daily) on the afternoon of 1 May 74, they were gone. Police were called, and after much bafflement, announced their theory that "several people" must have been involved, with large nets, between 1pm and 4pm that very day. They don't explain how this could have been done without leaving obvious signs (like water and fish-scales all over the place), or without being seen or heard. And that would be that, if there were not a note in the next day's papers, to the effect that detectives returning to the scene of the 'crime' casually threw some food into the pit, and Lo! the trout were back; all 8000 of them "miraculously reappeared." This was headlined in the paper as "Detectives Trace Trout". Hah! Red faces all round. It is not clear if it was actually established that there were no fish at all in the pit, though it would have been commonsense to have done so, the commonsense of others can rarely be relied upon. The only thing Foster could say was that the fish must have been sleeping when he threw the food in, or ill - both factors that would have normally occurred to anyone who breeds fish. But for them to be sleeping at their routine feeding would itself have been unusual, and "they appear to be alive and well enough now." One would also expect a fish-breeder to tell the difference between a pit-full of 3½ tons of trout from an empty one. In these cases there seems to be a definite reaction to the facts, a deliberate avoiding of the suggestion that fish can vanish (or are vanished) - it's not as though it's never happened before, after all. Story from the Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, 2 & 3 May 74. Credit: Nigel Watson.

COWS, SHEEP, CHICKENS & DUCKS — Manchester Evening News, 19 April 74: that 5 crossbred heiffers and 6 sheep were missing from 2 farms in the Rye area early that morning. Rustlers were suspected. (Cr: Peter Pogerson). -- Daily Express, 12 Nov 73: that TV cook Fanny Craddock has lost 11 chickens over the past few days from her Grove Mill Lane home, in Watford, Herts. Police are disinclined to blame a fox since the area was closed off but unlocked. They went a few at a time, nor was any noise heard - but why should a poacher expose himself to repeated risk as the flock dwindled, and leave one dead one? -- Sunday Mirror, 4 Aug 74: that police

report that no-one heard the slightest thing when 50 ducklings vanished from a farm at Boulge, near Ipswich. (Cr: Steve Moore.)

FROGS — Last ish we told of the problems caused by "thousands" of frogs returning to spawn in a pond in Hertfordshire (NEWS 8/16-17). John Hillaby ("Bad Times have Fallen on Frogdom" NEW SCIENTIST, 13 Feb 74, p398) bewails the sad decline in the UK population of our little leaping friends, by 99% in some areas. Pesticides do not seem to be responsible this time; Hillaby prefers to blame changes in landscape drainage, and believes the southwest and northern parts of the UK have a better survial rate. The following issue of NS (27 Feb) contained a letter which challenges both Hillaby's points, but agreeing on the decline - effectively leaving the whole problem very much a puzzle:

"There is a drainage pond a few acres in extent in part of the Northumberland Coast, with which I have been well acquainted for 20 years or so. (It) lies on the edge of fields and is seperated from the beach by about 100-yds of sand-dunes. For many years the area surrounding the pond was alive with frogs to such an extent that at certain times of the year it was essential to carry a torch after dark to avoid treading on the creatures. About 7yrs ago this population disappeared and since then to see a single individual is quite an event. The pond and surrounding area remain pretty much as they were and it is hard to believe that (this) disappearance has anything to do with changes in drainage. I have always assumed that it coincided with with the introduction of some new chemical on the adjacent fields.

W Riddell.
23 Beechcroft, Kenton Rd, Gosforth,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 4NB."

VANISHING CHILDREN.

At 2.06pm, 8 April 69, April Fabb, 13,cycled out of Metton village, Norfolk. At 2.15 her bike was found ½mile down the narrow lane to Roughton. She had disappeared in broad daylight, within earshot of picknickers and workers in the fields.

At about 3.00pm, 5 March 70, David McCaig, 13 began to bicycle the ½mile to school in the Wallasey area of Liverpool, for his favourite lesson in French. The next day his bike and cloak were found, and that's all.

At 7.30, 6 June 64, Keith Bennet, 12, waved goodbye to his mother to walk the last few hundred yards to his Granny's house in Longsight, Manchester...and has not been seen or heard of since.

At about 8.00pm, 12 July 63, Pauline Reade,16, was seen in the distance by a friend, making her way to a dance in Openshaw, less than ½mile from her home in Gorton, near Manchester. She never turned up there, or anywhere else since.

These and other cases, unsolved to this day,were re-opened by Paulette Pratt in 1972 in a big feature called "The Children who Vanish without a Trace" OBSERVER MAGAZINE, 29 Oct 72, only to find that in all cases the authorities were still baffled - even in one case where tens of thousands of statements were sifted, and over 80,000 posters circulated. Occasionally, papers get this bee in their bonnets and do a feature on missing persons,(MP's). For example, the Sunday Mirror for 18 & 25 Aug 74 also chronicled that lack of progress in these and the cases of Stephen Paul (vanished from outside his home in Fakenham, Norfolk, at 5pm-5.20pm, 2 Sept 69); Christine Markham (last seen at 11.09, 21 May 73 less than 200yds from her Scunthorpe home); and Lucy Partington, 21,(who left a friend's house at 10.15pm to catch the last bus to Cheltenham, on 27 Dec 73, and somehow didn't, though the stop was a short walk away.)

Speaking of such cases, Paulette Pratt wrote: "Not the least baffling aspect of all this is the realisation that no-one knows how many children vanish in this way. A reasonable estimate is that several thousand children are reported missing each year in one circumstance or another, and a significant proportion are never found." And of her efforts to determine just what that 'significant proportion' was, she adds: " Scotland Yard was approached several times during the course of this research, but refused to give even a brief interview, on the grounds that missing persons procedure is being reorganised." But even in the police network, "There is as yet no attempt at the sort of national index for missing persons that there is for example, for stolen cars...in the absence of research, the national pattern is not known. And on a purely practical level, there is no central source to which detectives from any part of the country can refer, when a child vanishes without a trace."

But whatever the administrative hangups, cases continue to mount on a staggering pile. At noon 22 June 74, Alison Chadwick, aged 10, left her home in Old Manor Drive, Isleworth, Middlesex. It was a normal Saturday lunchtime, her favourite bangers and mash was imminent - but she nipped out to fetch her swimming costume from a friend's house in the next street. That was the last time she was seen. Police took 15,000 statements and no clue was too insignificant to follow up - but nothing could be discovered at all. News of the World, 11 Aug 74. Credit: Nigel Watson.

At roughly the same time, Seattle was reeling under a series of vanishings of six young women since Jan 74. Two happened during the same outing to Lake Sammamish State Park, east of Seattle; but they did not know each other. One was last seen agreeing to help a man load his sailboat, and the other left her boyfriend to go to a restroom, and never came back. All were described as "serious and responsible", vanishing in seperate incidents. Perhaps the great hand in the sky is partial to serious young ladies. San Francisco Examiner, 22 July 74. Cr: L Coleman.

Titbits, 12-18 Dec 74 (not particularly known for reports of scientific accuracy), carried an

article on 11 children that were "kidnapped or murdered" from the Yugoslavian village of Prilipe in the Slovenia mountains. The horror began in May 72, when 6yr-old Anna Boscovic skipped out of her house to pick lilies in a nearby wood. Subsequent investigations could turn up no sign of her at all, the phrase being "vanished into thin air". Then 5yr-old twins disappeared, to be later found drowned, with no clues about how it happened. And 7yr-old Andreas Militic - gone, and then found later apparently killed by a hit-and-run driver. Then some more clueless vanishings. And, 4yr-old Jirina Kanladic was discovered dead in a meadow, still clutching her doll; no cause for her death could be ascertained. The last was little Bostian Clemencic, who because of the terror that kept the small community in fear, was watched over by his grandmother as he slept. For brief seconds she left him to fetch her knitting - but that was apparantly what was waited for, and long enough for him to have disappeared from their lives. The police, like police everywhere, thought of evil madmen, and conducted their searches accordingly - but there was not much else they could really. By our count, that's 5 dead and 6 vanished in less than two years.

(Cr: BR Bates.)

Daily Mirror, 6 Sept 74: that on 1Sept, Pamela Exall, 21, went for a walk along the beach at Snettisham, Norfolk, never to be seen again. -- The Sun, 6 Nov 74: that late 28 Oct night, 15yr-old Kim Baille was dropped just outside her home in Red Cross Way, Southwark, South London, by the taxi she shared with 3 friends after a dance. Somehow she never made the 50yds to her front door.

A PROTO-STONEHOUSE.

We had quite a juicy file abuilding on the vanishing of John Stonehouse, sometime MP for Walsall North. Just our luck he had to turn up. But to compensate, we found the following story told by Vivian Bird, in the Sunday Mercury, 8 Dec 74. Strictly speaking, Victor Grayson was no longer an MP when he boarded a train at Liverpool in 1920, bound for a speaking engagement in Hull. His bag reached the hotel booked for him, but Grayson never arrived. Bird says: "Some evidence suggests he turned up next day at a hotel in the Strand, London, but disappeared leaving a half-finished drink at the bar." We ponder - perhaps the snatching of Grayson was a mistake, and that later, homing on similar characteristics it was tried again. Grayson may even have been 'returned' (minus memory, naturally) - because in 1927, his mother, who lived in Liverpool, had hired a gumshoe to locate him. Nothing was found except a vague idea that he might be living in Australia. (Hmmm - funny how they always end up there.) The only other information, if you can call it that, was given by Seymour Cocks, Labour MP for Maidstone, who said that a man introduced himself to him as Victor Grayson on 23 Aug 1924, saying that he had been living in New Zealand. He gave Cocks a Belfast address, which Cocks lost in due course. End of information. An odd story that.

THE GLEN MILLER STORY / Cont.

December 74 also saw the 30th anniversary of the cross-channel flight of the single-engined 'Norseman' that was carrying Glen Miller to Paris for a Christmas broadcast - he never made it. John Edwards spent £100 chartering a light plane and took off on Miller's schedule - 1.55pm, 13 Dec - from the same wartime base, Twinwood, Beds. Add that to the £6800 he has spent so far in his 16-year quest to solve the mystery of Miller's disappearance, and that's a lot of crankpower. At precisely 2.39 (presumably the last known time-check from Miller's craft) Edwards found himself 12 miles out from the kent coast, in the area where a computer firm, working from weather and flight records, suggests the disappearance took place. Edwards had a salvage tug rendezvousing below, but (again presumably) was not able to dive in the conditions. Last word from Edwards was that he was going to try diving this summer. Daily Mirror, 14 Dec 74.

About two months previously, coverage was given to quite a different story. Medium Carmen Rogers held a seance at the Bedfordshire airfield in October 74, and then declared that Miller was not on board the plane when it crashed. "I can see him walking to the aircraft. He is disturbed and very worried. He does not want to make this trip. He is sick and afraid. I think the pilot decided it would be better if he put down as soon as possible and let Glen Miller get out. He asked for it to land, and it touched down on the Essex side of the Thames estuary. Glen Miller arranged to disappear. I can see him making his way to a pub, where he used the phone for a call to London." Mrs Rogers, an official of the Spiritualist National Union, added: "If they raise the plane they will not find Glen Miller. He had already left it...he died later." Douglas le Vicki, Press Officer of the Glen Miller Soc. attended the seance, and said later: "I find it hard to believe...There have been suggestions before that his disappearance was deliberate, that he was a secret agent, that he was alive but mutilated...None of the evidence points to Glen Miller having landed in England on that flight. I still believe he crashed into the Channel." In view of his own admission of the lack of evidence as to what happened, we wonder how he can be so certain. But that's called being realistic, or scientific, these days. The story is from Sunday People, 20 Oct 74. Credit: Nigel Watson. The only other thing that occurs to our criminally brilliant minds, is that if indeed Glen Miller had stopped the plane intending to disappear from the spotlight, the subsequent crash of the plane was a coincidence of some magnitude. See other sources for stories of those who 'missed' the Titanic etc etc. Only way to solve this thing conventionally is to get that planewreck up - if it exists. But, of course, if those cosmic jokers have done their

stuff, it'll be an entirely different plane down there. Kepp (dammit), keep your eyes peeled for developments. ((Sorry about the outburst, but I've run out of Tippex.)

MORE MPs (MISSING PERSONS).

Mrs Florence Newitt - snatched away to where the air is thin, by a giant hand from outer space, perhaps - but leaving behind a new £2000 car, a handsome income from rented property, and her washing up half done in her home at Christchurch Dorset. Daily Express, 5 May 74. Cr: P Rogerson.

The shipboard romance of two young teachers ended in mystery. Valerie Young, 22, and Raymond Trait 24, waited in her sister's cabin on the Greek liner 'Ellenis', until 5am, and then went out to watch the Pacific dawn from the decks. They were not seen again. Daily Mirror, 24 June 74. Credit: DJ McAllister.

Tasmanian student Noel Jago was last seen on 20th July, jogging off into the distance on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin, on his way to join the start of a marathon... (Nothing else - just dot dot dot. And we didn't make up either name, either). London Evening News (and the LE Standard), 26 July 74. Cr: Paul Devereaux & S Moore.

Anna Saint,26, drove a taxi, and on the morning of 9 Dec 74, she was on duty as usual outside Newcastle station. Later that day, her blue cab was found abandoned in a quiet street 3 miles from the station. Her handbag containing £28 was on the seat, her coat still in the boot. After extensive investigations, police confessed their mystification. Daily Mirror, 11 Dec 74.

William Nicholson, 71, had just arrived in England to claim his late brothers four-figure bequest. After docking at Southampton, he checked two cases into left-luggage at East Croydon station, and walked out. That was Oct 74, and nothing has been found of his whereabouts etc since. Porters opened his cases after a few weeks, and found his clothes, passport, and a copy of his brother's will. Police revealed that Nicholson's Croydon bank-account had not been touched. And the late bro's executor's confounded the mystery by saying that they did not know he was in the country, not expecting him for a couple of months. Sunday Express, 30 March 75. Credit: Richard Cotton.

UP, UP...AND AWAY...

You may remember the disappearance of the American balloonist, Col Tom Gatch, of whom we have no further news. He was not the first, and to be morbidly practical, we doubt he will be the last. Nigel Watson sent us word that Nature had reprinted an early occurrence in their '100 Years Ago' section (that was back when they were printing more of our kind of rubbish, instead of the present scientific rubbish). We're fairly sure this case is mentioned somewhere in Fort, but cannot put our finger on it just now - so we'll give you this original version: "The Young King of Siam having come of age on October 10 last, great feasts were given to his subjects at Bangkok the chief town of his dominion. Among other attractions was the ascent of a small mounted balloon, which had been constructed in Paris and had arrived by steam a few days previously. Liberal offers were made to procure an aeronaut, but were of no avail, nobody amongst the Siamese presuming to ascend. Consequently his Majesty ordered a slave, selected from amongst the less heavy of his household, to be sent up in the car. In order to encourage the poor aeronaut, so frightened for his life, he was promised to be rewarded with his enfranchisement. The ascent took place and elicited much enthusiasm from the bystanders, but, unhappily, nothing was heard from the poor fellow or of the craft." NATURE Vol 9 No 350, March 1874. Looks like the 'poor fellow' got his freedom from slavery one way or another.

THERE AND BACK AGAIN.

Some who disappear, it seems, like our Trout hors d'œuvres ((we occasionally like to show our command of the foreign word - we might even learn a new one for next ish)), manage to make the round trip and reappear. Some day we shall go further into the problems of scrambled memories and amnesia in connexion with teleportation, but just know We are having the Devil's own job of remembering what we started out talking about. Ah yes! Reappearances. See if you can accept the following story, told in a letter to the Manchester Evening News, 20 Nov 68. (Credit: Peter Rogerson).

"When my family were young we spent many happy years camping in (the upper reaches of the River Wharfe in Yorkshire). Mr Reay ((an article on that area by him in the MEN, the previous Saturday.)) says that there is a wonderful air of mystery about it all, an air of "farawayness and remoteness", and I too would describe the place as spooky. I will never forget on one occasion, when we had climbed up over the moors. The children played around, while my wife and I rested among the heather, basking in the sunshine. Whether I dozed off or not, I do not know, but suddenly I became aware that my wife was not with us. I called the children and asked them where she had gone, but they could not tell me anything . I got the queerest impression that she had been spirited away by the 'fairies' - there was nowhere on the moors that she could have hidden, and I began to get panicky. This district has that effect on one - the isolation and peace of the place give one the impression that unearthy (sic) things could happen. It is the weirdest place I know.

"We began to get really worried, and even Paddy our dog, who always accompanied us on our outings, started to whimpre ((curses - I still haven't any Tippex)), and appeared very distressed. Suddenly, apparently from nowhere, my wife was with us again, and there was a faraway smile on her face. We questioned her as to where she had been, but she could offer no explanation, and had no recollection of having been away from us at all. There is no doubt in my mind that something very odd had happened - something associated with the "farawayness and remoteness" of the place."

MYSTERY COASTAL FLARES.

We find from time to time stories of flares, or what are thought to be flares, seen far out to sea, and which, when investigated, reveal no ship in distress, and are then thought to be a hoax of some sort, without much thought as to how or why a hoaxer would brave the distance and dangers with minimal prospect of the flares being visible from ships or people who may or may not be in the area. We have no idea of whether these events are what ordinarily passes for "ball lightning" or "UFOs" because frankly we have no idea in turn what these latter lights are - but both undoubtedly could give rise to the tales of mystery flares. Give a thought, though, to the poor lifeboatmen, who have to turn out regardless of their doubts.

This type of phenomenon seems to be more prevalent on the east coast of England. Fort records tales of the "False Lights of Durham" in 1866 and the following year ((see Book of the Damned, Ch26.)) and there is no doubt that it is also an ancient tradition from long before that. And we also saw a case recorded in Cade & Davis's The Taming of the Thunderbolts (taken from the Northern Echo, 22 Nov 1963, originally). On 21 Nov 63, the coal-ship "Thrift" put into Blyth, Northumberland, 8 hours late. She had come from Aberdeen, when at nearly 6.00pm, 20 Nov, opposite Girdleness, Kincardine, the captain and 3 crewmen saw a pulsing red light passing within a mile of the port side (ie. out to sea) and at a height of 15-30ft above the sea-level. About 3 miles behind them it disappeared suddenly, and they then conducted a fruitless search for sign of a ship, men &c. Please see NEWS 2/18 for reports of coastal lights off Kent in 1973.

A lifeboat out of Skegness made a 5 hour search of the Wash on the evening of 30 April 74 and into the morning of 1 May, after red "distress flares" were reported in the Lynnwell area. They found nothing. The coastguard spokesman predictably supposed a flash-bombing exercise by the RAF on the Wainfleet range. Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, 1 May 74. Credit: Nigel Watson.

On 10 July 74, a combined search on part of the Norfolk coast, by the Gorleston lifeboat at sea and coastguards and police ashore, was called off after two hours. Brian Coleman, a coastguard, had spotted red flares to the north - there were also calls from other observers. When nothing turned up it was believed to be a hoax. Eastern Evening News, 16 July 74. Cr: N Watson.

Four or five days later, a white "flare" was seen off Souter Point lighthouse, at Marsden, Northumberland. Lifeboats searched for 2½ hours on the night of the 20th but found nothing - and no boats were reported to be in the area. The Journal (Newcastle), 22 July 74. Cr: P Screeton.

The Western Mail (Cardiff), 13 Jan 75, briefly mentioned much mystery flare activity around Anglesey and the mainland of North Wales, bringing in its wake "baffled" coastguards and lifeboatmen. The latest sighting was on the morning of the 12th, about midway between Great Orme, Llandudno and Puffin Island, Anglesey. The Beaumaris lifeboat put out at 1am. and after 4 fruitless hours, gave up. (Credit: FW Holiday.) Our man on the spot, Phil Ledger, told us: "Phoned coastguard (lifeboat couldn't be reached by phone) and they knew exactly the incident I was referring to, but could not help in any way - nothing had turned up since - lifeboat just got report of flares, went to sea, found nothing, and came in again. Event not covered by our local paper which never prints anything except WI, and births, deaths & marriages."

Later we had another card from Phil. "Shortly after 7.00pm Friday 7th Feb, a motorist passing Tryfan (that's a mountain 917 meters high and about 20 kms from the Llandudno flare area) thought he saw flares at the top. The following day mountain-rescue went out but found nothing, and no-one was reported missing. The report was on the BBC local radio news, Sat. 8th. I phoned mountain-rescue and they gave me the above details but could give no leads as to the source of the original report; and got quite up-tight when I mentioned UFOs."

And much further down the Welsh coast, flares are flaring off Llantwit Major in the Tresilian area. Police, coastguards, fishermen and students of Atlantic College, as well as members of public have all reported seeing yellowish flares in 4 or 5 incidents over the past few months.

From the lack of other details we can reasonably assume that the various inevitable searches could turn up no discernable cause for them. Western Mail (Cardiff), 3 Feb 75. Credit: FW Holiday.

FIREBALLS OR WHATEVER THEY ARE.

A case we have not seen recorded elswhere was sent to us by Steve Moore. It appears that Nature joined in the celebrations of November the Fifth in 1938, when those lucky enough to have lived in central and northwest London saw a very bright object which moved from south-east to north-west. "Its brilliant red drop-shaped head hurtled through the sky followed by a greenish tail which was apparently about six times the width of the moon. As it travelled through space it flared up to great brilliance several times and then, like a rocket, seemed to peter out over Hampstead way." quoted from Modern Wonder, Vol 4, No 79, 19 Nov 1938. Sounds like a fairly typical meteor/thing, but we include in case it isn't and so that we can check for synchronous events if the mood takes us later.

Shifnal, Shropshire - A bright ball of fire, for once not described as a UFO, but as a "mysterious glowing object" (an MGO?) was sighted independently by two waiters of the Park House Hotel, Shifnal. The Headwaiter was at Shifnal station on the evening of 23 June 74 when he saw it. About an hour later another waiter saw the object flying in the direction of Wolverhampton. Spokesman for RAF Shrewsbury said they had no planes in the area at the time. Express & Star, 24 June 74. Credit: Anthony Smith. Curious that 2 waiters from the same hotel should witness a similar (if not the same) enigma at different times.

Bala, Merioneth — 64-year-old George Longworth was driving past Bala lake in North Wales when he saw a light. It was brilliant like a "blinding sun" and as it flashed over his car, it deposited in its wake, an eerie grey powder. "I literally headed for the hills. I drove so hurriedly in fact that it looks as though I've ruined the gears on my car." George, who is not given to imagining things" said that the bright light had curious antenna-like protrusions out of each side, and that other motorists were brought to a stop too. "We were all shaken," he said referring to his wife, cousin & granddaughter also in the car, "It was something very odd indeed. I won't stick my neck out and say it was a flying saucer but in my experience at least it was most certainly an unidentified flying object. The shilling-sized white dust blotches it left on the car worried me. I wasn't going to touch them. Thankfully we had a deluge and it was all washed away." This fly-over took place on 4 Oct 74. A Dr Patrick Willmore of the Global Seismology Unit in Edinburgh is quoted: "The description could fit that of a fireball, which is a floating, bright, electrical object - but the odd thing is the grey powder which fell from it. I just don't know about that." Well that's honest enough , but what about those 'antennae'? Incidentally, Bala lake is on the Bala fault-line, and as some of you may remember, about 10 miles up the valley is Llandrillo of the Jan 74 tremors and lights. Story from Liverpool Echo, 11 Oct 74. Credit: Peter Rogerson.

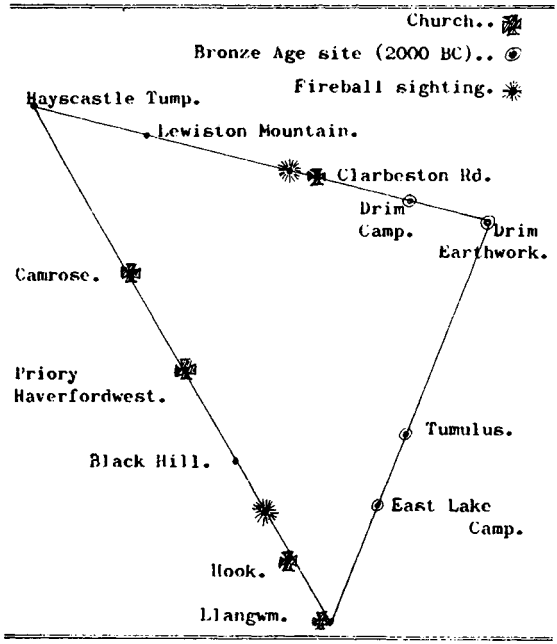
Ben Nevis, Inverness — is this another mountain fireball, or a return of the phantom tailless helicopter?? Policeman David Dawson was halfway down Ben Nevis, on 13 Oct 74, when he and a friend saw what looked like a "star" travelling slowly along the bottom of the glen about 400ft below. "It was not a meteorite, or any plane or helicopter that we have seen or heard of before. There was an engine and I would have guessed that it was a manned vehicle." Another part of the statement says that it hummed like an electricity generator, which,we suppose, could have given the impression of an engine - though the constable's testimony should be given the benefit of the doubt. He continued: "The light was so bright that it was impossible to make out any shape. We had a torch burning at the time but quickly put it out." We find this interesting in that not only did they feel subjectively that it could have been 'manned', but also felt wary enough about it not to attract its attention, a gesture which in turn suggests the object radiated a feeling of sentience. No other reports were received by authorities and they were said to be baffled - whichmust be pretty near their normal state these days. It was also mentioned that a report of the event was forwarded to the Ministry of Defence under the heading of "Unidentified Flying Object". We have it here for no particular reason except that it seems to be more at home amongst our other stories of lights on or near mountains. Daily Express, 14 Oct 74. Credit: Steve Moore & Roger Randle.

Haverfordwest, Dyfed -- back in South Wales, there was a series of "fireballs" which overlaps with the 'mystery flares' mentioned earlier and in much the same areas,but inland instead of the coastal sea. Cyril Hughes told police he saw a "ball of red fire which also gave off a red glow" falling at "medium speed" towards the river, not far from his home at Hook, near Haverfordwest. He was driving towards Haverfordwest when he saw the object "absolutely clearly. I stopped the car and followed it down until it disappeared behind a bank. I turned the car around and went down to the riverside, but it was dark and there was nothing to be seen. It could have fallen into the wood or into the water. There was not another soul about at the time. I have never seen a flare but it was certainly bigger than any firework I've ever seen. It was certainly no illusion - I saw it for about 10 seconds." No date is given but from the context we would guess 26th or 27th Dec. Police questioned many people in the area but no one else had seen anything - and Hughes remained convinced enough to talk of organising a search in the week to come. The story ends on the cryptic note that the 'fireball' couldn't be tracked on radar screens at RAF Brawdy "because the base was closed for Christmas." Got that? Good Grief! Aliens could be slipping in on public holidays, and we wouldn't know a thing until its too late. Western Mail (Cardiff), 28 Dec 74. Credit: FW Holiday.

However, as it turns out, others did see it. The Western Mail, for 30 Dec 74, mentions two people, also residents of Hook, saw the light for a few seconds. Robert Annesley said: "I would not have thought that it was a flare." And Hughes adds that someone else from Hook had contacted him confirming his sighting - and that a UFO 'expert' was moving in to help with his intended search. All this talk of 'flares', by the way, is a reaction to the concurrent 'mystery flare' events along the coast.

Then a silence - until 2 youths claim to have seen "a strange red ball" in a field "recently" near their home at Clarbeston, and this report was investigated by the 'UFO expert', named as Mr Randall Jones-Pugh, a local BUFORA man. Nothing is said of Hughes's search, so it's our guess he didn't find anything. Also, it is not said, but we presume that the 'red ball' the youths saw, was a ball of red light. Western Mail (Cardiff), 11 Feb 75.

Credit for these Haverfordwest notes to FW Holiday, who also checked the witnesses and the site at Hook - and further, found that both incidents occurred on prominent leys in the area, ((see accompanying diagram)). Mr Holiday also added that: "A most interesting ley crops up which I just haven't got the maps to trace. Cadno in mid-Wales is somehow linked with Carnac in Brittany, and Llantwit Major occurs on one or other of the legs. Hence we get reports like the enclosed of lifeboats turning out after mystery flares." Doubtless, in the continuity of all things, the connexions exist, but hidden to our sensibilities at the present.



Anglesey — "Astronomers are almost certain that a "mysterious ball of fire" seen over Anglesey, on Saturday night ((19 Jan)) was a meteor." Thats how the report began in the North Wales Chronicle 23 Jan 75 (Credit: Phil Ledger.)((See above somewhere for mystery flares in this area on 12th Jan and 7th Feb.)) Rather than give you the processed press version, here is Phil Ledger's own account of his investigation. "At 00.15 Sunday 20th Jan, Mrs Elizabeth Hughes and her daughter were sat in a room facing SW in their farmhouse at Hendre, Gwalchmai (Map ref: SH 395 765.) when the room became noticeably brightened by a red glow. On looking out of the window, they noticed a red ball of light to the west, apparently moving into their view from behind some nearby trees. The 'ball of fire' was described as brilliant red and throwing off red sparks from all around as associated with a spinning motion (and not as the NW Chronicle reports, from out of the top only). It moved slowly overall but with a rolling or spinning motion (compared by them to a Catherine Wheel). Looking through binoculars Miss Hughes saw that a white smoke was being given off The ball continued to move across in front of the house, but being on a level slightly above the horizon, its true distance was difficult to estimate. After watching for (an estimated) five minutes, during which time the object moved slowly away, apparently to the opposite side of the valley (N 200° - or 20° W of S, if you prefer), Miss Hughes saw the red ball suddenly diminish in size until only a much smaller white ball was left, which itself quickly disappeared. The night was 'quiet' with no rain, little wind and few clouds - and no noise was heard throughout the event. Note: Nearby (5 miles) RAF Valley have no record of this or any other light at relevant times. Only 2 other people were reported as having seen anything and when I spoke to them all they could describe was a vague orange glow. Anglesey is a very flat island and there is a good chance that any high, distant object would have been seen by many more people. This suggests to me that the event occurred close to Hendre, probably in the valley in front of the farm and hence potentially visible to few people".

Llandudno, Gwynedd — if the above account seems more conventionally like ball lightning, Mr Walter Houghton, who witnessed the case that follows is more inclined to think it a UFO. We include it here, again, because of the other activity in the area, and since we are running out of room we shall have to deal with our UFO pile some other time. Mr Houghton's account appeared in the Bangor & North Wales Weekly News, 13 March 75. (Credit: M "The Druid's Wife" Ledger.) Phil Ledger contacted him, and he sent us the following letter, which we have had to shorten because of the lack of space; but none of the relevant details are missing. He began by pleading "to know if any other local people witnessed the passage of a most unusual body in the skies, at the early hour of 4-40am, Wednesday, March 5th. The craft or object was brilliant

Cont on page 14.

pyramid slope & nopthe

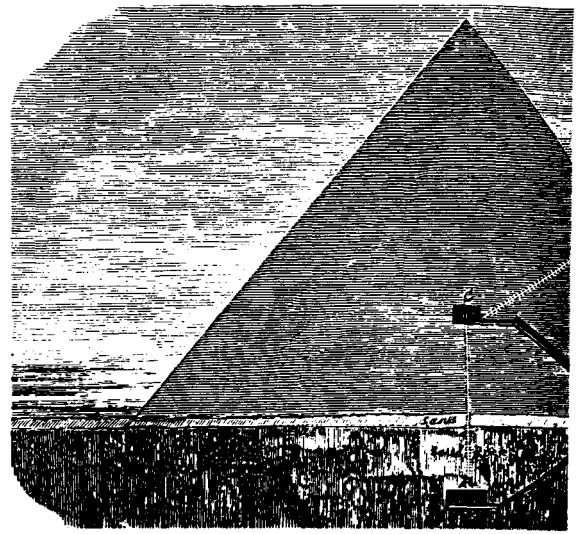
The large pyramids of Egypt are aligned with their base lines close to the four cardinal points of the compass. The largest of all, the Great Pyramid of Cheops at Giza, is aligned to within a few minutes of arc. The Giza group is located at latitude 29 59' N, just one minute short of latitude 30 , or one third of the distance from the Equator to the North Pole. We may infer from this that the early Egyptians had at least an indirect understanding of the fact that the Earth is a globe rotating about an axis.

A continuing puzzle is the question of the choice of angle of slope of each of the larger pyramids. Values taken from Fakhry (1) are given in the attatched table. Fakhry conjectures that the reasons for the choice of angle are probably structural and quotes Lauer (2) who indicates the convenience of selecting an angle such that the vertical rise is a simple multiple of the horizontal distance. Mendelssohn (3) quotes a suggestion of TE Connolly that the horizontal distance was determined by means of a rolling drum (this would explain the supposed early knowledge of the magnitude of 'pi', the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.)

While such relationships would presumably have facilitated construction, it is of interest to consider further whether there were specific reasons for the choice of any particular angle over any other, equally easy to construct on the simple ratio principle. Mendelssohn has considered the influence of angle of slope in conjunction with the use or otherwise of buttress techniques on the stability of the structures. In particular he considers the outer structure of the pyramid at Meydum to have collapsed, and offers a convincing explanation for this in structural terms.

We here consider the hypothesis that, just as the alignment of the base lines and the location of the large pyramids near latitude 30 N suggests an appreciation of the significance of latitude, so the pyramid slopes corresponded to latitudes of importance to the early Egyptians. Some early centres of religious or other significance to early man in Northern latitudes in the area of Western Europe are indicated in the table, and the latitudes corresponding to some of the angles of slope are superimposed on Figure 1. There are other important centers whose latitudes are not represented by pyramid slopes, so we are open to the criticism that we are being selective.

Ivimy (4) has independently related the slope of the Great Pyramid to the latitude of the Prescelly Mountains, and has suggested that Stonehenge, at latitude 51 10'N, was subsequently selected for the temple as the climate was better and conditions were better for astronomical observations.

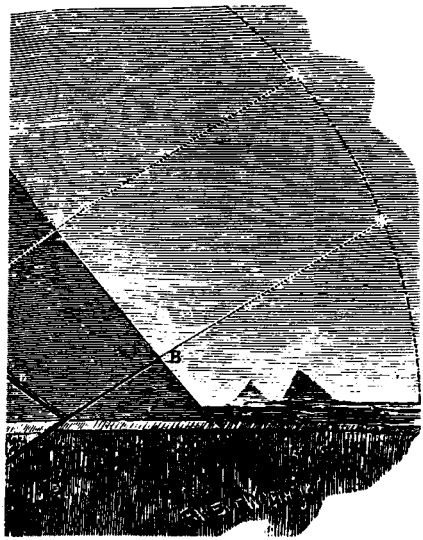


Watkins (5) describes some important alignments of tumuli and other earthworks passing through Stonehenge (Figure 2). Alignment A is the familiar Midsummer sunrise - Midwinter sunset alignment. Alignment B is sometimes considered to be a May sunset or November sunrise alignment, but such an astronomical significance seems weak. A thread stretched on a globe between Stonehenge and Giza coincides with this alignment, suggesting that its true significance may have been to establish ties with Giza. Alignment C puzzled Watkins as it lies 1 North of

Pyramid Group	Pyramid	Slope Angle
	Meydum	51° 53'
Dashur	Southern (Bent)	43° 21' 54° 31'
	Northern	43° 40'
Giza	Cheops (Great Pyramid)	51° 50'
	Chephren	53° 10'
	Mycerinus	51°

pd latitudes

by Stuart W Greenwood.



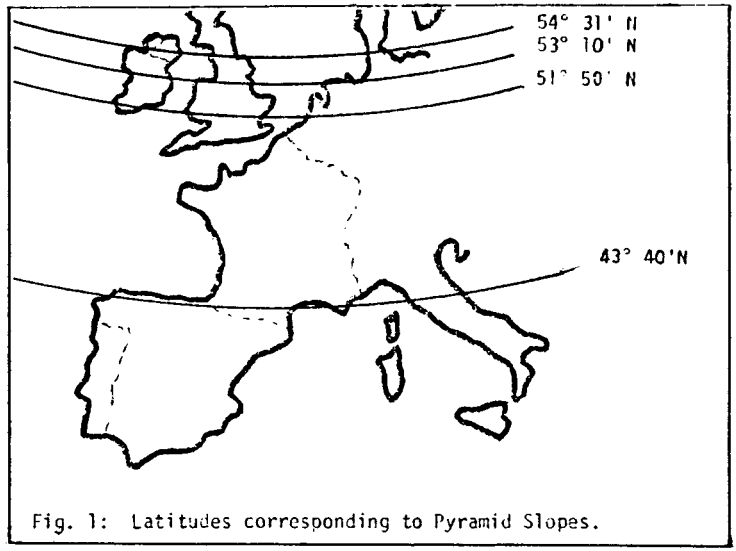


Fig. 1: Latitudes corresponding to Pyramid Slopes.

true East and just fails to qualify for sunrise and sunset alignments at the Equinoxes. However the included angle between Alignments B and C is 30 , the latitude of Giza.

That Egypt and Britain were linked in an important way in early times appears to be a hypothesis deserving further study.

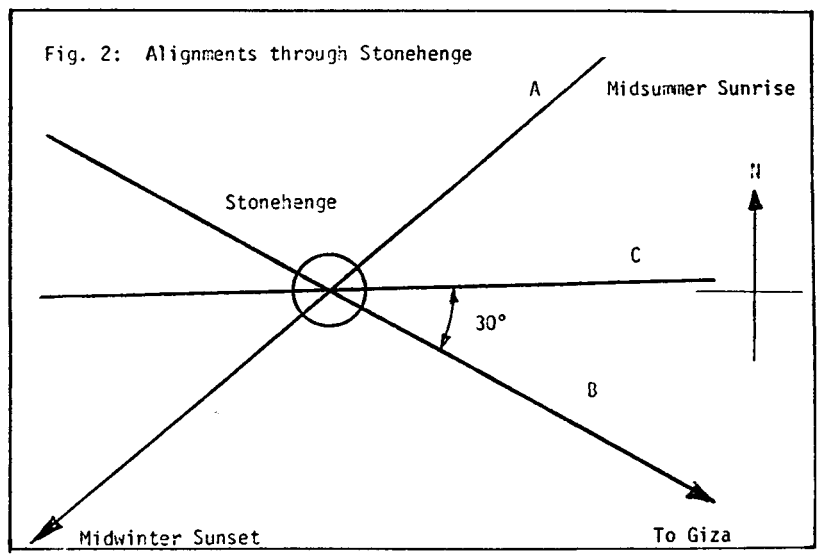
***** ***** ***** *****

References:

1) A Fakhry, "The Pyramids", University of Chicago Press, second edition, 1969.
2) JP Lauer, "Sur le Choix de l'Angle de Pente dans les Pyramides d'Egypt", Bulletin de l'Institut d'Egypte, XXXVII, (1956),pp57-66.
3) K Mendelssohn, "The Riddle of the Pyramids", Praeger Publishers, 1974.
4) J Ivimy, "The Sphinx and the Megaliths", Turnstone, 1974.
5) A Watkins, "The Old Straight Track", Garnstone Press, 1970. (Also: Ballantine Books, 1973.)

Stuart W Greenwood : December 1974.

Location	Latitude
Prescelly Mountains	51° 45' -- 51° 55' N
Altamira Armagh	43° 23' N 54° 21' N
Altamira	43° 23' N
Avebury	51° 27' N
Holyhead	53° 19' N
Glastonbury	51° 09' N



FIREBALLS / cont:

white, elongated like a cigar shape, which could easily have been a "saucer" seen edgeways. It appeared suddenly out of the blackness of the night sky, having no streaming tail behind it, being most clearly defined. Its speed was much faster than an aircraft, yet certainly not so fast as to be mistaken for a meteorite. Its line of flight was from south to the north, and was directly over and parallel with the length of the Nant-y-Gammar mountain range ((Map ref: SH 802 812)). Its disappearance was as sudden as its appearance had been, there being no gradual fading out of its light, and no gradual diminuation of size due to distance covered, but a sudden cutting out of the intense whiteness, just as if the brilliance had been electrically switched off. Its flightpath had been perfectly straight and not arced. It was no optical illusion, my window being perfectly clear of any condensation, (and) the sighting was of that crystal clearcut brilliant white object against a black sky background free of haze or fog." In a PS, Mr Houghton adds: "Approximate length of object assumed as 30-35ft, according to its distance away from the viewer. Flight height assumed to be 40-45ft above the mountain top."

There certainly seems to be a lot going on in Wales these days.

GHOST LIGHTS, CORPSE CANDLES AND A BIG ?

The Bournemouth Evening Echo, 22 Oct 1969, printed a strange story. Alastair Mackenzie, manager of the Suncliff Hotel, was drinking coffee with his wife and daughter when he saw something fluttering outside. They went out onto a verandah and saw a shape resembling a jellyfish, apparently 5 inches across and glowing slightly. After about 15 seconds, the luminous object moved out to sea gathering speed as it went, at a height of 25-30 ft. We first came across this case in the Paralab 'Classified Directory' for 1969, and were intrigued enough to write to Mr Mackenzie, who replied briefly: The phenomenon I saw was undoubtedly a UFO type "thing". In trying to describe it I unfortunately used a jellyfish as being the only similar earthbound object laymen could liken it to. It certainly was not a jellyfish. The local press used my phrase to provide stupid headlines in their newspaper in order to help sell them to the gullible public." Hmmm - if it certainly wasn't a jellyfish, it was also just as certainly jellyfish-like - enough for Mr Mackenzie to use the analogy in the first place. Perhaps we are gullible - but reports of small glowing spheres of (usually blue) light are quite common in the records of odd lights, but more in a minute...

According to a news report in late 1967, a 4-man expedition with £5000 worth of recording equipment was planning to set off in Jan of 1968 for the remote south-west corner of Ireland. Led by a physicist, Dr Wilfred Forbes, they were going to investigate "one of the strangest, most inexplicable mysteries of all time", known to the locals as "The Lights of Crusheen." -- "uncanny flames in the sky" which are said to hover over the tiny island of Inchicronan and come ashore at times of death and disaster. Twin flames, that have been seen "for centuries", are said to bob along about 6ft from the ground as though being carried by invisible torchbearers. They have even been photographed, and Dr Forbes has interviewed over 20 people, and mentions "hundreds of reliable witnesses." The lights are like enormous "candle flames" appearing above the island in the lake, and then at disaster times, move along a rocky causeway (which is completely submerged in winter) connecting the island (which is barren, occupied only by the ruins of Inchicronan Abbey, and Crusheen cemetery), then they follow the road into Crusheen, floating slowly up to roof level and remain there, still for several minutes over the doomed household, before drifting back the same way, to vanish again over the island. Even the local priest, the report adds, believes the appearance of the Lights heralds a death in the village.

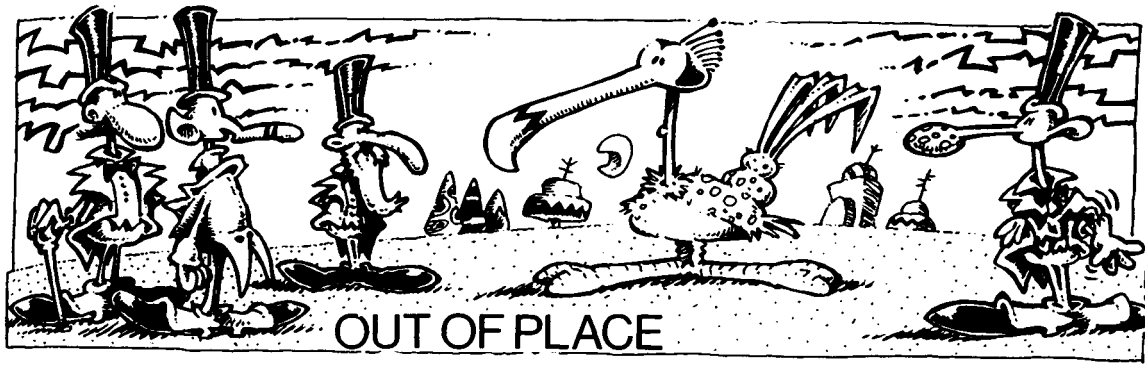
Dr Forbes was hoping to investigate a number of theories like "marsh gas", and "phosphorescence". We smile, because these theories themselves are the pale ghosts of horses that have been dragged out to be flogged time and again -- see LO! for the 1904/1905 profusions of luminosities accompanying the last great religious revival crusade in Wales and other parts of England. And after all this time our understanding has advanced very little into the nature of 'corpse-candles' or 'will-o-the-wisps' or whatever you choose to call them. Myth and folklore abounds with them - perhaps why scientists steer clear of them, usually. But Dr Forbes knows where he stands: " Neither I nor any of my team has much belief in the supernatural. If there is a rational explanation I am quite certain we will find it. Certainly too many people have been frightened for too long by whatever it is they call the Lights of Crusheen." And that's the last we heard from him. So any of you who know, please tell us what happened to the doctor and his team, and whether any info exists of their findings subsequently, or even who Dr Wilfred Forbes is, or was. Perhaps he got his wish - got to see the light...finally! Data from Manchester Evening News, 5 Nov 67. Credit: Peter Rogerson.

Cont on page 20.

ADz / cont:

ASSASSINATION INFORMATION BUREAU. Your Editor first learned of the AIB in Phil Ledger's car as we gave an itinerant American a lift to London. Now, thanks to Loren Coleman, we can stick an address to that. We in the UK (where such things can never happen)(says who?) are only dimly aware of the mysterious hankypanky and Men-in-Black-type phenomena associated with prominent assassinations. Tom Miller has organised the AIB to investigate, promulgate and disseminate the available info. Get yours on how they got theirs by writing for details to: AIB, 875 56th, Oakland, California 94608, USA. But watchout for MIB.

Cont on page 24.



BABOONS.

It hardly seems credible - but it happened none the less. On the night of Monday 8 July 74, there was a mass escape of 80 baboons from the West Midland Safari Park, in the Wyre Forest on the Worcs./Shrops. border. Tom Mann, general manager, warned: "When they got out,they were reasonably harmless, but after four days on the run in strange surroundings, being frightened by gunfire and possibly hungry, they could be a different proposition. We have reluctantly issued orders to our hunters to shoot to kill if necessary." By the Saturday, all but 4 or 5 were recaptured, and 3 were dead. It seems that a gate was accidentally left open, and word soon got around the baboons. The main story is from Evening Mail (Birmingham), 13 July 74; and the succeding days papers contain the inevitable expressions of official concern, postmortems on security, etc.

But the saga does not end there. Curiously, the following month, on the 12th, about 30 calls were received by police at Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, from people claiming to have seen baboons swinging through trees in the area. Later officials of Lambton Safari Park admitted that they had 57 of the critters, but were very cagey about how many had escaped. "We are trying to count them," was all one had to say. The next day, 2 were said to have returned "because they were hungry." It's not said, but there is an implication that there were still some on the loose. The Sun, 13 & 14 Aug 74.

Meanwhile, back at the West Midlands Safari Park, according to the Sunday Mercury, 18 Aug 74, four baboons are continuing to evade capture, but we we are assured they are not dangerous, by Mr Paolo Sepe, the new general manager. But a committee of local officials was told by Mr Brian Williams, managing director of a Birmingham zoological firm,who bought 38 from the park, that the biggest of them are strong and fierce and could kill a man - and at official committee level,statements like that cause as much consternation as shoving a ferret down their trousers. They radiated panic and concern - but nothing else happened at all. Presumably they were waiting till somebody got killed first.

Now it's September and we go back to Chester-le-Street, where we learn that there has been another mass escape attempt. This is described as "organised" in that coaches,bearing incoming gawpers and litterbugs disguised as visitors, were waited for, then the crafty monkeys dashed under the coaches, and rode past the security checks by clinging to the chassis. Manager of Lambton, Dick Howard, said: "From observations, we identified the leaders behind the escape plot and seven are now being dispersed to other zoos and parks." It is not said how many got away, or how many were recaptured, nor this time, if any more returned out of hunger. Howard said he had often to deal with brainy baboons. At a zoo he managed in Holland, he caught some luring an unsuspecting antelope with a banana to the side of a compound fence - and then they vaulted up and over the animal's back to freedom. Daily Mirror, 3 Sept 74. Credit: Robert Forrest.

But those four stragglers from the escape en masse are still glimpsed occasionally. The last note we have is from October 74 when they were reported seen in Oldington Woods at Foley Park, Kidderminster, Worcs. A driver on the Stourport Road said he saw one come out of the woods, cross the road, then dash back again. Adjacent to the woods is a British Sugar Corporation factory, and though no-one at the factory appears to have seen them, 'experts' reckon they have been attracted by the sweet smell and pilfering sugarbeet. Sunday Mercury, 27 Oct 74; Evening Mail (Birmingham), 28 Oct 74. I find myself hoping they have survived the winter and get round to breeding - and spring out at passing naturalists, who, if they had any sense of propriety, would promptly eat (or choke on even) their UK mammal lists.

BEAR & RACOONS.

Daily Mirror, 22 July 74 -- that the police in Hongkong were looking for the owner of a black bear, found lurking on the staircase of a block of flats on the 21st. Credit: Steve Moore.

Bears sound quite suitably exotic to be wandering in oriental stairwells - but suppose we were to supplant Hongkong with Yorkshire. Sounds unlikely,

but you dear reader, have come to expect the unlikely, at least here in the pages of THE NEWS where the public rarely venture, and where we can expose ourselves in relative privacy. But something has intruded elsewhere - the woods on Skipwith Common, near Riccall, Yorks have been the haunt of a creature which has startled many people in the first weeks of Feb this year. The Latest sightings suggest it to be a bear. David Bowlby, who does a 35-mile milk-round each day, had stopped his car by the Common on the Skipwith/ Thorganby road, to write up his sales book. Suddenly, he spotted the animal in woodland about 50 yards from the road. He got out and managed to get within 20 yards of it before it ran into a thicket. "I'm sure it was a bear, not fully grown. It was brown with black foot-pads; standing by a tree. It was about as big as an Alsation dog on all fours; on its hind legs it was about as tall as a 10-year-old child." And he glimpsed it again a few minutes later.

Later that same day, 12 Feb, the dog owned by farmworker Geoffrey Houseman, sniffing on the Common, began to behave oddly. "I couldn't understand it. The dog was barking for a full hour. He wouldn't normally bark like that if it was a rabbit. He's never done that before." David Bowlby reckoned there had been at least five previous sightings, and stories about a bear supposed escaped from a travelling circus at Malton, but didn't believe the stories until he had seen for himself. But we wonder...on the map, Malton is over 22 miles away and even the shortest route between there and Skipwith Common would involve crossing a great many roads, some of them busy major ones....and the police state that they had received no reports of any missing bears (and it's fair to assume the circus would have eventually reported such an escape since a bear would be a part of their sources of revenue.)

Then police checked all the zoos and circuses in North Yorkshire, and again no bears were reported missing. But then a spokesman for the Flamingo Park Zoo, near Pickering, came up with the idea that it might be a racoon. Three policemen made a search of the common on 14 Feb but could find no sign of the animal or any tracks. In the next edition of the local paper we learn the reason for the Zoo's odd statement - they reveal that one of their racoons had gone..er.. "missing". However, Inspector Wilf Scott, of Selby police, said "The difference between a bear and a racoon is quite considerable...I'm keeping an open mind about this. There is obviously something running about. It may be a bear and it may be a racoon." Referring to the original suggestion of bear, he said "He's no idiot and if he's talking about an animal 5ft 10in. high, I'm not looking for a racoon." The story so far has been reassembled from the Yorkshire Evening Press, 13,14 & 17 Feb 75. Credit: JW Scaife.

The Evening Standard (London), 19 Feb 75, repeated most of the details with the following differences; a quote from Mr Bowlby: "I mean it sounds so stupid, but when I approached further - gosh -it was a bear. It stood about 4ft 6in., had brown eyes, a darker brown skin (!?!)and big black pads." ; and we learn that 3 racoons had escaped from Flamingo Park Zoo, 2 of which were recovered; and another zoo spokesman, apparently forgetting that the suggestion of racoon came from a zoo in the first place, said: "It is incredible to think of anyone mistaking a racoon for a bear - they are only about the size of a fox - a little shorter and fatter though." Then he went on to add that racoons had been known to have become feral in some parts of Britain.(Cr: Paul Devereaux.)

When JW Scaife mailed us the cuttings from the Yorkshire Evening Press, he commented that so far there was no further news, "in spite of snow on the ground to aid in tracking or sighting - or it may be the Press is bored with the news, as you well know their methods." So we leave you with the note that a racoon and something else that appears to be a young black bear are both still unaccounted for, and on the loose in our countryside.

"HERE, KITTY KITTY..."

A rare Eastern panther was seen and photographed in the Adirondacks by Alex McKay, a teacher of Huntington, New York, towards the end of April 74. Panthers were considered extinct for many years in the Northeast USA - but in recent decades there have been occasional sightings. The Commercial Appeal (Memphis), 1 May 74. Credit: Mark Hall.

We include two 'Surrey Puma' sightings here, recently sent to us by Janet Bord, and which are not listed in my article on MAs in southern England between 1962 and 1973 (see INFO 13.) though they fall in that period. On the 15th July 71, a policeman spotted a "2ft high, grey cat" at Plaistow Farm, Chiswell Green, Herts, and he thought it was a puma, or at least odd enough to call out his colleagues with tracker dogs. But it escaped them. A local paper a week later confirmed that nothing had been found or sighted during the searches and since; and that no pumas were reported to have escaped from zoos in the region. Evening Echo (Herts), 16 July 71; Herts. Advertiser, 23 July 71. And for the second time in just over a week, a "large catlike animal that can run at speeds up to 35mph" was sighted near Polegate, Sussex. A taxi-driver told police that early on the 14 June 72 he saw the animal, "several times larger than a cat", running along the road between Folkington and Polegate. The earlier report was from a man who saw the animal jump a 5ft fence. Evening News (London), 14 June 72.

A mountain-lion, called Khan, escaped from Miles Madley's garden, in Byton, Herefordshire, on 1 Jan 75, where it was kept as a pet. Squads of police with tracker dogs hunted through remote woods and a forest on the edge of Byton for the

escapee. It was normally gentle and frisky but fear, it was thought, could turn it into a killer -- no prizes for guessing who's putting the fear up it. An impression is given that Khan was tempted out of hiding once, but escaped again. No confirmation of any later capture either, so add one mountain-lion in Herefordshire. Daily Mirror, 2 Jan 75.

The only catch Fred Lloyd was thinking about on the 5th Jan was a modest pike, as he fished on the banks of the Medway, at East Peckham, out in the wilds of Kent and not far from Tonbridge. But something stirred in the undergrowth, and out leapt a 2ft-long panther cub, all hiss and claws -- its enthusiasm got the better of its prowess and the pretend-tiger came tumbling down the bank towards startled Fred. "I grabbed it by the scruff of its neck, took a look at its claws as it growled away and shoved it straight into my fishing box." He rushed home and transferred his catch to a baby's playpen, and when that looked like being demolished, into a large strong box, putting a beer-crate on the lid. "I phoned all the zoos I could think of to see if they ahd lost a black panther, but they just laughed at me and put the phone down. Fred notes that the cub was quite exhausted, which is why, he reckons, he caught it so easily -- but very interestingly, he adds that it didn't seem to be particularly hungry. "He turned his nose up at all we offered him, even raw meat; and when it came to trying to get him to drink, after a few seconds in his mouth, the teat on our sterilised milk-bottle was bitten clean off!" It took another 24 hours before an RSPCA Inspector could be convinced into coming to take it away to a home in Godstone, Surrey. "I thought it would probably turn out to be a ferret," he said. The day so-called authorities and experts stop patronizing their public, is the day we pack up and burn our notes. But now the story takes a stranger twist. Over a week later, Colchester Zoo, in Essex, claim the cub as 'Zar'; an 8-week-old bundle of fun worth £600, and who had been stolen from them on 4th Jan - the day before he turned up in Kent over 50 miles away; or rather a cub disappears, and the next day, learning that by a stroke of luck a cub has turned up elsewhere, claim it, thinking conventionally that a thief had travelled with it. We wonder, in our perversity, if it was the same cub, since most of us non-'experts' would be hard put to tell one young black panther from another. But to the expert-mind a thief is a less troublesome hypothesis than the one we have suggested ((see NEWS 1/9 for a note on the vanishing of a black swan, and a different one that turned up elsewhere later)). We can only wonder how it was stolen; then why let it go if it was worth a ransom, and after going to that trouble. And as to it escaping and making the journey on its own? - well anything is possible - but the shortest route between Colchester and East Peckham is down a craggy coast, across the Thames estuary and through some well populated parts. For continuity we point out that Fort recorded many cases of things disappearing and other things appearing in their stead, sometimes in a manner that suggests a contrived ending to a mystery - hence The Man's jokes about an Occult Police Force who regularly confound the experts and scramble our brains. The cub could always have teleported ... your guess is as good as ours. Reconstructed from Daily Express, 7 Jan 75 (Cr: Steve Moore.); and Weekly News, 18 Jan 75 (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

They certainly seem to be coming out of the woodwork, this year. Council rat-catcher Bill Crane was asked by his employers to investigate a tip at Langham, Norfolk, for bigger game. A lorrydriver had reported seeing two lion cubs "romping in the rubble" on 15 Jan 75. Crane says: "I haven't found any unusual footprints. I think it's a bit of a tall story - the animals were probably foxes." Ho hum! Practical jokers and liars tend to be conventionalists, as Fort reflected, and not known for their exceptional flights of imagination beyond certain standard patterns of exaggeration. A hoaxer, these days, would get more fun out of a "bomb-warning" - any ordinary liar, we feel, would have blown this incident up into a full grown lion or whatever -- the choice of 'two' and 'cubs' seems to us anyway to be the suggestion of a pretty tame hoaxer at best, and so deserve some token seriousness . We must accept that there have been foxes on tips - perhaps these were - but perhaps not also. The Sun, 16 Jan 75.

The Daily Mirror (22 Jan 75) described Britain raging under a "wild pets storm" - we've noted the odd breezings of bear, scatterings of cats and intermittent outbreaks of baboons, but a 'storm' might be going too far. Except...in the corridors of Westminster, MP, Peter Templemore's cry of: "Sooner or later someone will get killed " brought the usual huffing from red-faced politicians. This was in reaction to an incident in Acton, London, in which an estranged husband dumped his pet puma in the backgarden of his ex-house, with a note saying he had nowhere else to keep it. Police & RSPCA had a 2hour struggle to rescue the wife and terrified kids. In November 74, a man strolled into the Farm House pub, South Harrow, with a puma on a lead. After a while, the uneasy locals asked if he wouldn't mind leaving. He got up to comply, but the puma, with less decorum went berkserk (as it's said round here). Said the landlady, after the cat had demolished the bar, tables, many glasses and the chair-upholstery: "It took the man 15 minutes to get the puma out of the pub and into his car, during which it tore off the man's glove and ripped open his hand." Then as the puma continued to vent its fury on the car's seats, it was clear the man could not get in and drive. The police were called and they towed puma and car away. Later the man was charged with being drunk and incapable. Daily Mirror, 1 Nov 74. And in between the above two events was a running-filler in the press, about an idiot who had a puma in his backgarden for kung-fu practice. We didn't bother to collect that one. The point of this is that there seems

to be many private individuals, not just private zoos who are keeping all kinds of wild animals that can escape with relative ease - and no registration or legislation to control it as yet -- not even a census of imported animals is available...and ex-owners,afraid of their neighbour's wrath, or of prosecution for illegal importing (ie. by-passing quarantine requirements) don't tell of escapes. Fort only knows what's out there in the countryside.

Lastly, we have the latest on the notorious "Surrey Puma" - if indeed it is one animal, or even a puma at all. This latest sighting was hailed by the police as the first "reliable" evidence, being casts of footprints and hairs found on a fence, apparently forgetting all the previous times they have obtained casts of prints and hairs from fences. This newest evidence was generated on the morning of 6 March, at Brooks Green, near Horsham, Sussex, when two girls, out riding in a field, were thrown when a large cat-like animal crossed in front of them, startling the horses. The manager of a nearby caravan site also saw what he described to the police as a puma. Later the same day, police with guns and dogs searched the area, finding the hairs and the prints, which showed "definite cat-like characteristics suggesting a weight of 90 to 120lbs. Two days later (8 March), a woman at Barns Green said she had seen the animal by the M23 at Pease Pottage, the other side of Horsham. And the mystery was compunded (or compounded, even) by a phone-call the the West Sussex County Times received saying the police and RSPCA had caught the puma by Donkey Bridge, a mile north of Brooks Green - this was later denied by both authorities. Again it is also noted that there has been a conspicuous absence of killings or livestock attacks that would be expected from a normal puma. Nothing else is seen or heard - and time soon erodes that earlier certainty into doubts and finally back to good old fashioned disbelief. Two weeks after the initial sighting,a lullaby is printed to smooth our slide into the Land of Nod, about a man who has a 10-month-old puma as a pet on his farm at Southwater, not far from the Greens, Brooks and Barns - but even here there is no suggestion that this one, so conveniently near, was responsible for the incident. So having popped out of nowhere to keep us on our toes - silence... and a perfect mystery capped perfectly. From: The Sun, 7 Mar 75 (Cr: Phil Ledger.); the West Sussex County Times (Horsham), 7, 14 & 21 March 75 (Credit: JDM Start.)

SPRINGS IN THE AIR.

The Sun, 10 July 74. That a wallaby was caught by police on the 9th, after causing chaos in the High Street, Kinson, Hants. We have notes of sightings of wallabies (or kangaroos) in Sussex, (May 1969), and Kent (Aug 73) - and 2 wallabies are known to have escaped from Heathfield Safari Park, Sussex in late Aug 73 ((please see my article in INFO 13 for further details on sources - sorry to keep bringing that up, but I guess that's what reference articles are for.)) This latest capture might have been one of those two that escaped, but it's plain that there were wallabies in the British countryside before that escape -- for example there is known to be a breeding colony of Tasmanian wallabies established in the Derbyshire Peak District since about 1940, and another is believed to exist in the Ashdown Forest in Sussex, which could account for the sightings in that area. We have the full references to these colonies, but in deference to the request of the authors to minimise publicity, to allow the colonies to flourish in peace, we won't publish the details, and hope you'll agree with the sentiment. But if any of you come across more sightings we shall be pleased to print them since we have a soft spot for marsupial immigrants.

5 Nov 74 and another bounder, a kangaroo this time, gave the good people of the Hampshire/Berkshire border a few coronaries as it leapt over hedges into and out of the small country roads. Many phoned the police who treated it as a joke until Donald Rayfield, the owner of a small private zoo at Baughurst, near Basingstoke, called with the news that 5yr-old Prufrock had gone over the wall. "He will feed on branches and graze, so he'll be all right until we catch up with him," he added. This is from the Sun, 6 Nov 74. I'm not sure, but I think I saw a note in a local paper to the effect that Prufrock had been tied down (Sport), but (blush) I actually forgot to cut it out -- Oh! Abject Shame!

Well, that's got us off to a good start - so see if you can swallow this one. That a 5ft kangaroo was pulled into his boat by an Australian fisherman on 22 Nov 74. He was more than a mile out from the Victoria coast and could not account for what the 'roo was doing out there. Daily Mirror 23 Nov 74 (Cr: Steve Moore.) That fair reminded us of the pig that was found swimming 15 miles out from the beach at Miami, Florida (see INFO 11, p10) -- some folks go to extraordinary lengths to avoid fares.

An extraordinary epic has been playing live at "50 locations in Indiana and Illinois" (New Scientist, 26 Dec 74.) - and the Midwesterners therein experiencing that vertiginous feeling familiar to the wallaby-spotters of Kent and Sussex - nothing wrong with their vertical holds on reality, but the intrusions of a 4½ft, 100lb kangaroo. The first reports are of 2 Chicago policemen who cornered it in an alley on the city's northwest side - but it escaped because the officers were afraid of being bitten and contracting rabies. But they fought, and after giving them some good clouts,with one bound it was free. "Too bad we didn't have our nightsticks there, then we really could have hammered him," gritted one 'roo-ful cop ((sorry about that)) who no doubt enjoys the resisting of arrests bit. The general concensus on the date of this event is 13 Oct, though the New Scientist says 18 Oct. In the days that followed there were at least six

more sightings, and a noting that no one had reported any loss of a kangaroo. San Francisco Chronicle, 19 Oct 74. Credit: Loren Coleman.

Ace columnist Dermot Purgavie of the Daily Mail (23 Oct 74) reported: "He was last seen hopping along Mango Avenue heading south," and that the cops, "have this plan to immobilise him by raising his tail off the ground so he loses stability. I'd like to be there to see that." So would we all. (Credit: Steve Moore.)

A hiatus until - A Plano, Illinois, policeman was said to have nearly hit a kangaroo that landed in front of his car in a road in Riverview on the night of 1 November. Then, according to the Chicago Sun Times (9 Nov 74), the magic marsupial pulled off a neat trick. On Saturday night (2 Nov) about 9.00pm, 3 Plano youths said the animal jumped into Shafer Road from a nearby field, sat in the road, then leapt a 5ft fence to vanish into a wood. Onehour later, the kangaroo (or a kangaroo) was seen 40miles away on Chicago's southwest side, where a young couple were walking down New England near 56th when the bounder took an enormous leap in front of them and sproinged off down New England towards Archer ((yes, dear heart, they do talk like that)). Then at 1o'clock early Sunday, 2 friends riding along Montrose, between Cumberland and East River Road, saw it leap from a two-legged stance into Schiller Woods. It was described, for the first time in these reports, incidentally, as "gray in color, with big black legs." (Cr: Richard Crowe.)

Then a trucker, identified only by his radio-code "Lone Wolf", was driving on a rural road near the Fox River, about 40 miles southwest of Chicago, near Millbrook, on the 5th, and radioed a tow-in service-station in Plano that he had spotted what he thought was a kangaroo keeping company with 3 deer. He trailed the deer and the "other animal that definitely is not a deer - its prints in the mud of the field are much different", but lost it as it headed toward the river. Decatur (Illinois) Herald (or Review), 5 Nov 74. (Credit; Loren Coleman.) ((Speaking of codenames, this is the stamping ground of the enigmatic industrial saboteur and pollution-fighter known only as "The Fox"- about whom we shall have to be more expansive some other time.))

From here on, all restraint is abandoned - this sighting followed by a glimpse elsewhere shortly after (which could be accounted for, according to the Chicago Sun Times, if it bounded from place to place at speeds of over 30mph), has given rise to stories, then beliefs, in several roos on the loose. See Daily Mail, 14 Nov 74.(Credit: Steve Moore.) for a garbled report suggesting one in Chicago, one with the 'herd of deer", and one in Indiana. Indiana? Where did that come from? -- Oh well! Cue for New Scientist, 26 Dec 74 (Credit: JDM Start.) to comment sagely, and no doubt for our own good: "That the affair is a healthy joke made up by the Chicago policemen and continued by a subtle kind of mass hysteria." Ho, healthy ho! but what do they mean by "Mass hysteria" - "People who see some large animal on the loose tend to assume its a kangaroo because they've heard or read about the animal."

This fatherly concern from on high, we treat with the same disdain that we as children resisted all attempts to civilise us - jumping into puddles and eating worms is much more fun. And who will comfort the anguished Demon Purgavie as he cries with delight: "This has got to stop! There are kangaroos cavorting all over the Midwest, a cow is loose in Brooklyn, and now there's a herd of deer (presumably deaf) that has decided to settle just off the runways at Detroit airport." Daily Mail, 20 Nov 74. Credit: Steve Moore.

We don't know if its the same event - no it can't be really - but a 350lb bull-calf was found romping down a mile of traffic-laden street in the Bronx on 14th Feb 75 -..er..not the same event at all, is it? Do cattle get loose in New York all that often? It seems this one was found near apartment buildings where, last year, an "occult group" decapitated a goat and 54 other animals - so it's assumed that this bull-calf was a survivor of their managerie - but as to how it is supposed to have stayed alive, and without being discovered till this incident is not ventured. Someone else supposes that it could have falled off the back of a lorry. We think he's been listening to scientists. Daily Mail and Daily Express, 15 Feb 75.

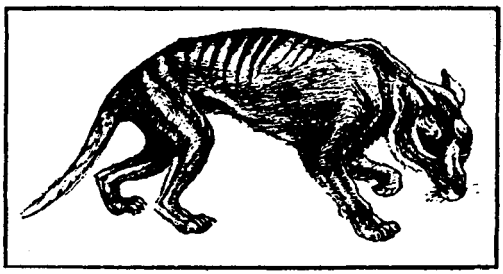
MYSTERY ANIMALS.

Now for our stars - though we shouldn't allow ourselves favourites, or if it is illusions we are recording what basis is there for preferring between things that exist only insubstantially?

A "strange striped creature - half cat and half dog, " was seen loping across Western Avenue, Branksome, on the outskirts of Bournemouth, at 3.30am, 7 April 74. It was seen for a moment as the headlights of a car turning into that road from Bury Road swept across it. The driver, Mrs Joan Gilbert, said: "It was the most peculiar animal I have ever seen. It had stripes, a long thin tail, and seemed to be all grey, though it might have had some yellow on it. Its ears were set back like a member of the cat-family, and it was as big as a medium-sized dog. It was thin, and it definitely was not a fox." Checking later through an animal book she found the nearest resemblance to be...a Tasmanian marsupial wolf.

I don't know about you, but several chords were struck in me. A Tasmanian wolf in the UK? Sounds highly unlikely, by ordinary standards. I don't know if any are in captivity at all, and would certainly be so rare that dealing or importing concerns would have notified of any escape immediately - if they had one. It is confined to Tasmania, though remains have been found on mainland Australia, and Heuvelmans writes: "Its existence is no longer in doubt - though it is still not officially recognised." (On the Track of Unknown Animals, Ch 8.) -- the impression given being that no zoo or institution has any specimens, living or dead, and that it is so

rarely seen suggests its skill in vanishing whenever Man comes nosing around. Heuvelmans gives the following account from Tasmania, dated 1871 : it was "as big as a native dog; its face was round like that of a cat. It had a long tail, and its body was striped from the ribs under the belly with yellow and black." This description is remarkably concordant with Mrs Gilbert's. Incidentally, of the wolf's relative, the Tasmanian tiger-cat, Heuvelmans says: "Of all the unknown animals dealt with in this book (it is), the one nearest to being officially admitted by science..Although there is neither skeleton nor skin of it in any museum in the world..."



Can it be that an animal barely acknowledged to exist, on only a few eye-witness accounts as evidence, has turned up in southern Britain? Whatever it was that Mrs Gilbert saw, the thought is now in our minds that Tasmanian wolf fits, almost to a tee, the previously puzzling accounts of, for example, the 'Surrey Puma' in that region, particularly the odd and often reported characteristic of both cat- and dog-like attributes; or something cat- dog-and fox-like but that was definitely not a fox. Anyway, we welcome this new flavouring to an old mystery. The story is from the Bournemouth Evening Echo, 7 April 74. Credit: Stefan Mucha.

One has to expect these things, but a couple of days after typing out the above cases, Steve Moore sends us word that the Tasmanian Tiger (or Wolf or Tiger-cat — they seem to imply the same animal) has been seen again, in car headlights, like our Bournemouth supposition. But since the article, from the Sunday Times, 6 April 75, mentions many other items of interest to our subject here, we take the liberty of reproducing it in full. It was written by Celia Haddon, who is becoming a regular goldmine these days...

A CREAMY-COLOURED leopard with startlingly dark spots has been seen and photographed in the hills of Southern Israel. For the past four years Israeli game wardens had put out freshly-killed meat for the animal, which they suspected might be living nearby. Now at last a photograph has given proof of its existence and yet another "extinct" species turns out not to be extinct at all.

The Antipodes seem particularly rich in "extinct" animals. A colony of parma wallabies, once common in Australia then thought to have died out, were rediscovered in an island off New Zealand in 1965. They had flourished undisturbed there since a Victorian animal enthusiast imported them—while in Australia the wallabies were dying out.

In the same way another marsupial, Leadbeater's possum, was rediscovered in Australia in 1961. That year, the noisy scrub bird was detected and in the same area the western bristlebird came to light. Lately there have been tempting reports that the thylacine, a marsupial sometimes known as the Tasmanian tiger, has been spotted in car headlights in Tasmania again.

Smaller animals, of course, quite often just escape human observation. In Cuba and Haiti there is a small mouse-like animal called a solenodon—or at least there probably is. The last living specimen in a European zoo died in Frankfurt two years ago and its death made some people believe the solenodon was extinct. Then a year later a male specimen was caught in Cuba.

But even quite large animals may still exist hidden from men in the wilder parts of the world. In a recent book a Hungarian zoologist reported that a herd of eight wild horses had been spotted in the deserts of Mongolia. These, he claimed, were none other than Przevalsky's horses—a race that have been extinct in the wild for a generation. Or, so most people thought. Like other rarities, Przevalsky's horse may yet turn out not to be so extinct after all.

Celia Haddon

Elsewhere; from the front page of the Runcorn Weekly News of 30 May 74, comes the announcement of "The Thing of Delamere." The shadow of a "strange animal" has been seen several times slinking along backwoods paths in Delamere Forest, near Kingsley, Cheshire. Thomas Merrington, of nearby Norley, first saw it in April. "It was at night and I saw the thing in my headlights, twice." It was about 2ft tall, with a tail like a fox's brush, but in appearance "more like an Alsation dog. It wasn't a fox, I'm certain of that - and yet it had the tail of a fox." His son has also seen it, and locals have spotted it on the shores of Hatchmere lake, and on the main road between Kingsley & Oakmere. (Cr: P Rogerson)

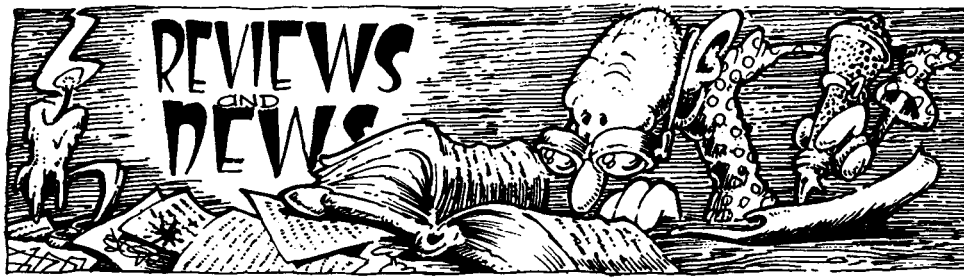
GHOST LIGHTS &c / cont:

Lastly we have a note on something so odd that it defies all classification into even our arbitrary and somewhat flexible categories. It seems to indicate a cluster of synchronous fortean events - a fall, mystery fires in haystacks, a mobile 'corpse candle', and a mystery smell/illness that affects animals only. Weird. Roger Randle found it and sent us the account verbatim from 'A Description of Caernavonshire (1809 - 1811)', by Edmund Hyde-Hall, and published by the Caernavonshire Historical Society, being No 2 in their series of records :

"In the winter of 1694, we are told (by Pennant*) an extraordinary phenomenon was exhibited to the neighbourhood. A mephites, or pestilential vapour resembling a pale blue flame, arose out of a marshy tract called Morfa Bychan, and traversing the channel, here 8 miles wide, rested upon Harlech and its environs. Sixteen ricks of hay and two barns were consumed by its action, and the village was so poisoned that the cattle and sheep browsing upon it perished in great numbers.

The season of motion with it was night time, and for a second summer it reappeared, but less frequently and with diminished strength. The most curious facts attending it were perhaps the facility with which it was dispelled by any noise, and the impunity with which it could be traversed by human beings. Its cause is attributed, with what correctness I give no opinion, to a fall of locusts near Aberdaron, by the corruption of which the vapour is supposed to have been engendered." (p241.)

((* Thomas Pennant: "A Tour in Wales" (1784) & "Tours in Wales" (1810).



ICE AND IRON by Wilson Tucker. Victor Gollancz Ltd; £2.50; 181pp; ISBN: 0.575.01908.5. Just as we receive another warning about the imminent Ice Age (only 10,000yrs away - Prof HH Lamb - Sunday Mirror, 13 April 75) we have this latest and long awaited novel from Bob Tucker. Some of you may be familiar with his earlier novels, particularly 'Wild Talents', which was one of the first to treat psychokinesis in a serious fashion, and as the title suggests, drew on Charles Fort's final book. 'Ice and Iron' leans even more heavily on Fortean data. It is set over a fortnight ((a pun could be indicated here)) during which a research station in mid-Canada is abandoned in the face of the advancing ice-wall, only a few hundred years in our own future. Main character Highsmith is determined to puzzle out the strange falls of primative mud-bricks, and charred corpses, found lying on the snow fields about them. This is alternated with scenes set even further in the future on the other side of the Ice Age - and I won't tell you about that, because its disclosure is part of the fun. A colleague believes this is the novel that finally "explains Fort" and I disagree strongly - one possible explanation for a small group of events, still leaves an awful lot of explaining to do. The only other improbability - the station-librarian manages to read the collected books of Charles Fort (well over 1000 pages of close-type) and mentally processes the thousands of jumbled data into usable chunks relevant to the plot, in two or so days, and without loosing any sleep! I should be so talented! Word comes to Highsmith & team that the 17th body has been found - alive...and the book is off to a good start. Don't be fooled by the RL Stevenson quote over the door as you go in: "Ice and Iron cannot be welded." - Tucker has succeeded, and made a damned good tale out of their joining.

GHOSTS - THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY by Peter Haining. Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd; £3.75; 126pp; ISBN: 0.283.98178.4. I suppose this splendid pictorial volume is what is called a 'Coffee Table' book - being thick on the 'illustrated' and thin on the 'history'. Haining has gone to some trouble to gather as much illustrative material as possible, and this collection is both diverse and fascinating - from early engravings and paintings; stage and drama programme covers; pamphlets, cartoons and satirical commentary from a number of centuries; folklore illustrations; to spirit photographs, the tools and effects of trickery, and the evidences not so easily explained.

The last and more 'modern' section was particularly intriguing, with many photos I'd never seen before - like the "only known photograph of a poltergeist at work" showing a walking stick hovering over a boy in bed; ghosts in and outside churches; a phantom reclining in an easy-chair. Also included is one that has puzzled me for some time - the ghostly form in a wood near Coroboree Rock, 100 miles from Alice Springs, Australia, yet it's never explained why, of all the imaginable phantoms that could be associated with an initiation site, sacred to the Abos, it should be, apparently, a tall bearded Caucasian in a long white priestly robe, sporting a Flash Gordon-type aviator's helmet. The book is well worth having for its profusion of illustrations - my only niggle being the way some of them straddle the seam in the centre when the book is opened. The text is to the point and informative despite its brevity - altogether a nice balance in content and presentation.

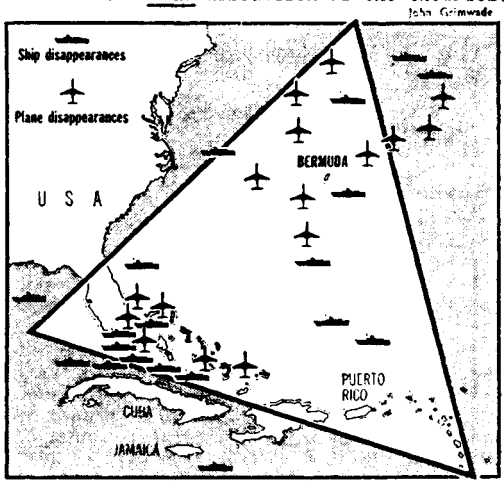
THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE by Charles Berlitz. Souvenir Press; £3.25; 203pp; illustrated; 0.285.62170X

THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE MYSTERY - SOLVED by Lawrence D Kusche. Published in USA by Harper & Row; $9.90. (March 1975)

POSTED MISSING by Alan Villiers. Hodder & Stroughton; £4.25; 336pp; maps & illos. (May 1975).

Britain has been bombarded in recent months by Bermuda Triangle Hysteria - the serialisation of Berlitz's book in Sunday Express (9 Feb onwards), and the double-spread in Daily Mail (7 Jan) being only a part of that exposure...so NEWSreaders will thus, if not already, know of and about this area of mystery. Berlitz begins well but lacks a logical structure - after dealing with his version of the known details, UFOs are brought in, then Atlantis and the suggestion that a giant submerged solar crystal is warping the space about the hapless victims, and then the Great Pyramid, and secret Indian manuscripts - and as the various solutions to the mystery are compounded upon each other, Berlitz finds himself at a loss for the next step, and ends up hinting darkly at press and government conspiracies. We have not seen Kusche's book, but there is an extensive comparison with Berlitz's in the Sunday Times (Spectrum section), 16 March,

which points out considerable differences in the versions of the evidence, and errors on the part of Berlitz. Kusche, it must be admitted, is attempting a refutation of the "1000 dead and 100 planes missing" statistics - but that can only result in some real discussion of the theories.



It's the age-old pitch, and the pressure is on you to side with one or another load of predigested, packaged opinion. Our only advice in this and similar complexities is to go to the data, and form your own opinion - granted that this is not always practical or possible. So we welcome those with no tub to thump - in this case the decision to up-date and re-issue Villiers' effort, one of the standards on losses at sea over the past century. He is quite matter-of-fact, even when the facts themselves are extraordinary (or perhaps because of it), eg. that at least 70 merchantmen have been posted missing in the last decade, despite sophisticated advances in communication & rescue methods. Ships are going down all over the globe - but let's face it, the only thing we can say about the B Triangle is that they are going a bit more than elsewhere.

MYSTERY OF THE ANCIENTS - Early Spacemen and The Maya: by Eric & Craig Umland. Souvenir Press; £3.25; 186pp; illust'd; ISBN: 0.285.62162.9. Scarcely any more credible than Berlitz's theories, this time the Gt Pyramid and B Triangle get hooked into the Mayan mystery. Accept if you will, that 40,000 years ago, aliens came to mine the 5th planet in our system. By bungling on a cosmic scale, they blow the 5th planet into the Asteroid condition, and retreat to their mining ventures on this Earth. Having stranded themselves here, they degenerate, losing all their knowledge, and retire from their gigantic buildings all over the world to sulk in isolation in the steamy jungles of Yucatan to await rescue by the white brother. As a scenario it leaves a lot to be desired, and is undermined further by crass and shallow reasoning, and that all the factual evidence attached thereto is so skimpily identified that in most cases it could have been invented for all we know.

Like Berlitz, the conspiracy theory crops up again, only in reverse: why are the US and USSR racing to the moon and the planets? - obviously because they know that they'll find remnants of that fabulous ole Mayan science out there - yeah! and no doubt they'll put it to the same use and blow our planet to smithereens too. Amongst other patent absurdities is that despite their crucial assertion that an alien species lives alongside us, there is no reference for or against the essential biological proof - tissue-typing, blood grouping, inter-species-breeding, etc - and if these should prove that we are 'no different flesh', what then? Complete silence. The authors believe that these Maya left things like Stonehenge and the Pyramid of Cheops to be later taken over by the locals. Stonehenge, by the way, they say, only makes sence from the air, which is utter rubbish since the computations with the use of back and foresights are clearly ground-observer orientated. The pyramids, we are told, were originally store-houses - which would be fine if the pyramids were hollow. The pyramid shape, they argue, is a Mayan signature - forgetting that until mortar and flying buttresses came along all large buildings had to assume variants of pyramidal structure. Contrary to their belief, the black meteorite in the Kaaba at Mecca, is set in a corner, and is not the cuboid building/block it is set in. We could go on.

The book also has the same fault as the rest of the von Daniken tribe output - and that is the complete disregard, and in a few cases, misinterpretation of the power and the role of spiritual and emotional forces in motivating man's achievements. I don't wish to make a case for man being of any significant importance, but to ascribe, as the Ancient God Squad does, all the litter of art and artifacts on earth to the tinkering and untidyness of aliens, not only smacks of the re emergence of the old 'Deus ex Machina' (to alleviate the guilt, no doubt, now that we have banished the God of our fathers), but also makes irrelevant nonsense of all we know of man's own sentience and sensitivity and creativity.

The Umland Brothers had the chance for once to explore a unified theme (instead of the von D scattergun approach) - they even have some good ideas begging for development - but by indulging in immature sensationalism, they blew it.

STRANGE PLANET - A Sourcebook of Unusual Geological Facts - by William R.Corliss. Vol E1; 283pp; 11 drgs; ISBN: 0.9600712.3.7. $7.95 postpaid from: Sourcebook Project, Box 107, Glen Arm, Maryland 21057, USA. The mixture as before. More extracts and reprintings of the original & in some instances rare, reports of geological oddities: ringing rocks & singing sands; sunken & legendary lands off Ireland and elsewhere; the great dinosaur disaster; fairy stones and rings; geomagnetic reversals; footprints in strata; and strata that appear 'upside-down'; deluge traditions; mystery mounds and earth-heaps; 'when the Mediterranean dried up.'; boulders that wander off on their own; etc etc. My urging of the

importance of this series to all researchers etc needs no further emphasis. In many cases these accounts are more interesting and mysterious than the conjectures of the Umland Brothers et al.

Now available inpaperback:

THE OTHER SIDE by Bishop James A Pike. Abacus; £1.10; 292pp; ISBN 0.349.12775.1. Bishop Pike's already famous account of the poltergeist like evidence of events following the suicide of his son. Fascinating as a case history of a bizarre series of synchronistic events.

THE HUMANOIDS by Charles Bowen, ed. Futura; 45p; 256pp; ISBN: 0.8600.7057.3. This now 'classic' reference collection of articles by prominent researchers on the physical and psychological aspects of the 'contactee syndrome' - and for only 45p - you lucky people.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR SUB IN TIME

When you subscribe, we make out the appropriate number of address labels — and these show the number of the issue with which your sub expires, in the top right hand corner. In the interests of continuity we would appreciate renewals before your last issue if possible. And don't forget to let us know if you change address. Thank you!

did you see...?

Further to our gossip last issue about the Japanese nuclear ship, whose reactor had, in mid-voyage, to be patched up with old socks. A note in the weekly News, 21 Sept 74, added that previously boiled rice was being used to plug the leaks of the radioactive coolant. That's progress.

'The First Observatory' by Igor Bohassian. VERTEX Vol 2, No 4, Oct 74. About the Great Pyramid.

'More things in Heaven & Earth..' WIRELESS WORLD Nov 74, p470. An encounter with and thoughts on psychometry.

'Struggle between Confucian & Legalist Schools & Ancient China's Science & Technology." by Li Chun. PEKING REVIEW No47, 22 Nov 74, pp8-13. Mentions in passing many inventions like the seismograph, and how that "gang of parasites", the Confucians kept a block on invention and scientific advances in order to preserve the status quo, by which they did very nicely thank you. Good stuff sandwiched in propaganda.

NATURE Vol 255, 10 Jan 75, p95: that the earliest record of man's presence in Britain is now pushed back 400,000 to 500,000 BP.

'Faraday and the Psychics' - Science & the Citizen section of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN Vol 232, No1, Jan 75, pp 52/53.

'One Link that is no longer Missing' by Athene Williams. PREDICTION Feb 75. A study of the extraordinary teenage psychic Matthew Manning, and review of his book "The Link", poltergeist and Geller-effects rampant, including some curious automatic drawings (almost exact copies of Durer engravings?) See also the series on Manning in the Daily Mail, 16 - 18 Sept 74.

'All that Glitters is not God' by Timothy Ferris being a report on the first Ancient Astronaut conference (April 74) in Arlington, fitting in some barbed badinage with von Daniken on the way. ROLLING STONE, 30 Jan 75.

More Geller notes: 'The Pinball Wizard' by Ian Pollock. TIME OUT, 6-12 Dec 74. The words from the Who's opera 'Tommy' seem quite applicable: "There has to be a twist. The Pinball Wizard's got such a supple wrist. How do you think he does it? I don't know. What makes him so good?" What indeed? See also 'The Professor's Dilemma' and 'How Geller Convinced Me' by Prof John Taylor OBSERVER MAGAZINE, 6 April 75, and the following week, being publicity for Taylor's forthcoming book, 'Superminds'(Macmillan) dealing with his tests on Geller and "dozens" of kids who can do the same and more. Taylor needs to put this out himself — his paper was "thrown out" by NATURE, colleagues are getting rattier towards him and in NEW SCIENTIST (Feedback, 13 Feb 75) we learn that the Ministry of Defence was wetting its pants in fussing over a King's College contract, in case Taylor would use it to further his studies of the Geller effect. A MOD scientist was quoted: "It reads as if Taylor was going to study the production of EM radiation by people rather than the effect of EM radiation on people. We didn't want that." Isn't it marvellous! So much for MOD PSIwar conspiracies.

'Why Birds are on the Warpath' WEEKEND 12-18 Feb 75. More tales of aerial attacks.

'To Divine is Human','Rites for Reassembling God' 'Chomsky', & 'Yeats and the Magic of Power' Book reviews with very interesting side discussions of divination, sacred rites, the role of language in perception, and the use of magic ritual as a means of imaginative realisation. An action-packed issue of Times Literary Supplement, 14 Feb.

FATE & FORTUNE: No11: 'Ley Lines - The Magnetic Grid' by Michael Balfour. 'Haunted Versailles' by Andrew Mackenzie on the Moberly/Jourdain psychic time-trip. No12: Geoffrey Ashe on the mystic 'Isle of Avalon'. No13: 'Levitation - Illusion or Reality?' by Andrew Mackenzie. We heard that this excellent general mag will have to fold at No15, leaving quite a gap in the field.

'Is Science a Religion?' by Edward Goldsmith. An ecologist's view of teleology and ontology, and just how far modern science and technology seem to have strayed from the original conception of their usefulness - the original Frankenstein monster. THE ECOLOGIST, Vol 5, No2, Feb 75.

SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY Vol 2, No3. Walter Gillings writes a short bio/bibliography of Eric Frank Russell, who, as you may be aware, was the mainstay of UK Forteanism in the post-war years -- and Gillings identifies much of Fort's influence in Russell's fiction and non-fiction.

'Arigo -Surgeon of the Rusty Knife' by John Fuller. READERS DIGEST, Mar 75. Gut-wrenching exploits of the famous psychic surgeon.

'Credulity and Coincidence: von Daniken in Perspective' by Jerry Palmer. TIME OUT, 7-13 Feb 75. von D. had certainly come in for some bashing lately, but then he just as certainly asked for it. This being a reaction to "Gold of the Gods" now in paperback, sh ing clearly how a gullible public is traded on. One interesting illo shows a rubbing of the classic Mayan tomb-carving compared with von D's 'artist's impression', and how by multiplying tiny differences in emphasis of detail, he arrives at a "Mayan astronaut" version that "looks twice as solid and machine-like" as the original. The business of the caves in Ecuador and some hoaxes and fallacies are also of value. Letters from predictably outraged Danikenophiles were printed in the issue that followed, 21-27 Feb 75.

'LDEs - Not from Alien Spaceprobes'. More info on the long-delayed echoes that form the basis of Duncan Lunan's alien probe hypothesis. Research Notes, WIRELESS WORLD, March 75.

NEW SCIENTIST: 'Do Animals use Radio Telepathy exploring a microwave basis for extra-sensory communication in animals. NS, 30 Jan 75. -- 'A New Medical Psychology' by Drs J Rachman & C. Philips. A plea for more study on the subjective & psychosomatic aspects of health & sickness. NS, 27 Feb 75. -- 'The Quest for Gaia' by Drs J.Lovelock & S Epton. An intriguing hypothesis that the atmosphere of the planet behaves like an organism. See also correspondence on the subject in subsequent issues. NS, 6 Feb 75. -- 'Promises, Promises - Health for Sale' by Dr D Gould. A review of patent medicines & associated legislation. NS, 13 Feb 75 -- 'The Genesis of a Tornado' The account of the idea that driving on the right-sides of roads can in some cases help generate tornados. This idea arose during a University seminar on partly-baked ideas, and a student set out to refute it, only to end up convinced by the evidence for it. NS 13 Feb 75. -- 'The Temporal Dimensions of Consciousness' The start of a series of extracts on the important & fascinating work by Dr Robert Ornstein on the different roles of the two halves of the brain. NS, 27 March 75. -- 'And yet it moves, Again.'by John Lloyd, on further developments of 'Fluidyne' derived engines. NS, 3 April 75.

THE LEY HUNTER: No 62/63, Dec74/Jan 75: 'First Steps in a Mathematical Approach to Ley Probabilities' by Bob Brown. 'Bristol Leys & Solar Serpent Temple' by Stephen K Jenkins. No64 Feb/March 75: 'One Man's Quest' by John Wilcock. 'Myth & Cosmos - Towards a Philosophy of Revolutionary History' by Anthony Roberts. 'Belgian Leys' by Eugene Zimmer. 'Thanet Leys' by Janet Huitt.

Compilation Credits: Frank Adey, BE Bates, Richard Cotton, Phil Ledger, Steve Moore, JDM Start, and Nigel Watson. Notes of anything interesting that you come across, are always welcome, y'hear.

BIGFOOTSES: We also learn from Loren Coleman, that the tradition of George Haas' Bigfoot Bulletin, and McClarin's Manimals Newsletter is being continued by Bigfoot News in providing a wide-ranging coverage of BF activities & info. Bigfeet, now almost a specialist subject on its own, is something THE NEWS has yet to deal with, but all those who are interested are referred to Peter Byrne's BIGFOOT NEWS: PO Box 632, The Dalles, Oregon 97058, USA. $5.00 for 12 issues.

VELIKOVSKY: We recently discovered the intention to establish a UK society (no name as yet) based around "A Rational Approach to Velikovsky and Catastrophism." Membership £5.50/year, or £3.50/year to students & those over 65. More info can be had from Harold Tresman, 18 Fir Tree Court, Allum Lane, Elstree, Hertfordshire. Uk.

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE sends out a 20 page (minimum) monthly UFO compilation, plus 2 to 4 pages of Forteana. Worldwide coverage, with translations into English - extra pages during flaps at no extra cost. Subscriptions outside USA are $6.00/month (minimum sub is 3 months. $18.00/ 3 months, or $65.00 for 1 year. No month by month payments. UFO Newsclipping Service: 3521 SW 104th, Seattle, Washington 98146, USA. Rod Dyke, who runs the UFONS, is presently acting as a clearinghouse for all accounts of the Midwest mutilations and the attendant phantom helicopters in preparation for a 'Special Report' - so those interested should write to him as above.

Ready for take-off—the 30ft. prototype of Britain's flying saucer.

As we go to press, the Sunday Mirror (13 April 75) features on front page the disclosure of Britain's first Identified FO...but relax! It's a prototype of future 700ft dia, 800 ton, helium-filled airships. The developers, John West Design Associates, even have plans for an aerial-hotel with swimming-pool and port-holed circumferential verandah. "Nein! More gas, Wilhelm, und ve shall ascendink be to ze stars!" NEXT ISH: we'll have notes on ghosts & visions; monsters; and UFOs.